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LONDON, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1885.\*

## REVIEWS.

*Rig-Veda Sankhā. Vol. II. The Second Ashtaka, or Book of the Rig-Veda.* Translated from the original Sanskrit by H. H. Wilson, M.A., F.R.S. W. H. Allen and Co.

THROUGH the liberality of the Court of Directors of the East India Company, Professor Wilson is enabled to continue a work, for the publication of which there would not otherwise be sufficient encouragement in this country. To Sanskrit scholars, and those versed in Oriental literature, any recommendation of the work would be superfluous; but, for the sake of general readers, it may be well to give a short statement of the remarkable writings now brought within the reach of their study in a literal English translation. The ancient Hindu hymns, constituting the books of the Rig-Veda, contain authentic notices of the social and religious condition of the nations of India at least fifteen centuries before the Christian era. These early documents are valuable on other accounts than from their direct descriptions of the religious creed and practices of the people. The mythology is somewhat vague and confused, and it is not easy to form a clear conception of the religious system, which was evidently in a transition state from a simpler patriarchal and domestic form to a more complex and grosser idolatry under sacerdotal organization. One thing is plain from these old Vedas, that the heathenism of India degenerated in lapse of time, and that the earlier system of Hindu worship did not sanction many of the follies and enormities of modern Brahmanism. Many of the divinities invoked in the hymns are obviously only allegorical or poetical titles of the sun, the moon, the earth, the air, the winds, and other natural objects, and the spirit of the worship is akin to what inspired the devotional feelings of the Sabæans, the Chaldees, and other more western nations. We think also that many of the divinities which Professor Wilson and other learned scholars enumerate as proper names and distinct personages, are mere adjective synonyms. For instance, the sun is addressed under great variety of characters and operations. But it would occupy too much space to attempt any analysis and classification of the Hindu Pantheon; and we proceed to notice some of the remarkable illustrations, furnished by the second book of the Rig-Veda, of the history, institutions, and manners of the people. Some of these are thus enumerated by Professor Wilson, references being given to the particular passages in which the allusions are found:—

"In their towns or cities we find existing the arts, sciences, institutes, and vices of civilized life, golden ornaments, coats of mail, weapons of offence, the use of the precious metals, of musical instruments, the fabrication of cars, and the employment of the needle; and although we have not the allusions to traders by sea that occur in the first Ashtaka, yet the unequivocal notices and mention of the ocean, are so frequent and precise as to prove beyond doubt its being familiarly known and occasionally navigated: we have also the knowledge of drugs and antidotes, the practice of medicine, and computation of the divisions of time to a minute extent, including repeated allusions to the seventh season, or intercalary month. We have mention, not only of Rājās, but of envoys and heralds, of travellers, and of Sarais, or places provided for their refreshment: it is true that in the passage in which they are named, the refreshments

are said to be provided for the Maruts, or the winds; but in this, as in the case of the cities of the Asuras, the notion must have been derived from what really existed; Prapathas, or choltrās, were not likely to be pure mythological inventions; those for the Maruts must have had their prototypes on earth. Then with regard to the laws of property, it appears, although not very perspicuously described, that daughters had claims to a share of the paternal inheritance: that women took part in sacrifices, we have already seen, and it seems that they appeared abroad in public; of some of the vices of the civilized state, we have proofs in the notice of common women, of secret births, and by inference of the abandonment of new-born children; thieves are frequently mentioned; debts and debtors are adverted to more than once, and although the idea is complicated with that of moral obligations, yet debt must originate in fact before it becomes a figure: reverses of fortune and being reduced to poverty from a state of opulence, form the burden of more than one Sūkta; all these particulars, although they are only briefly and incidentally thrown out, chiefly by way of comparison or illustration, render it indisputable that the Hindus of the Vaidik era even had attained to an advanced stage of civilization, little if at all differing from that in which they were found by the Greeks at Alexander's invasion, although no doubt they had not spread so far to the east, and were located chiefly in the Punjab and along the Indus; the same advanced state of civilization may be inferred from the degree of perfection to which the grammatical construction of the language had been brought, and still more from the elaborate system of metrical composition of which so many examples occur, and of which the Sūktas attributed to the Rishi Paruchhepa, afford such remarkable instances."

There are two hymns in this Ashtaka, descriptive of the sacrifice of horses to the sun, accompanied by rites and services, such as eating the flesh of animals, alien from the spirit of Hinduism at a later period. Herodotus reports that such sacrifices were made by the Scythians and also by the Massagete. One of the hymns describes, with somewhat revolting details, the mode of the sacrifice; another, which is devoted more to the praise of the animal, we give as translated by the Boden Professor, prefixing six verses of the former hymn:—

"1. Let neither Mitra nor Varuna, Aryaman, Ayu, Indra, Ribbhukshin, nor the Maruts, censure us; when we proclaim in the sacrifice the virtues of the swift horse sprung from the gods.

"2. When they (the priests), bring the prepared offering to the presence (of the horse), who has been bathed and decorated with rich (trappings), the various-coloured goat going before him, bleating, becomes an acceptable offering to Indra and Pūshan.

"3. This goat, the portion of Pūshan, fit for all the gods, is brought first with the fleet courser, so that Twaśtri may prepare him along with the horse, as an acceptable preliminary offering for the (sacrificial) food.

"4. When the priests at the season (of the ceremony) lead forth the horse, the offering devoted to the gods, thrice round (the sacrificial fire); then the goat, the portion of Pūshan, goes first, announcing the sacrifice to the gods.

"5. The invoker of the gods, the minister of the rite, the offerer of the oblation, the kindler of the fire, the bruiser of the Soma plant, the director of the ceremony, the sage (superintendent of the whole); do you replenish the rivers by this well-ordered, well-conducted, sacrifice.

"6. Whether they be those who cut the (sacrificial) post, or those who bear the post, or those who fasten the rings on the top of the post, to which the horse (is bound); or those who prepare the vessels in which the food of the horse is dressed; let the exertions of them all fulfil our expectations.

"1. Thy great birth, O Horse, is to be glorified; whether first springing from the firmament or from the water, inasmuch as thou hast neighed (auspiciously), for thou hast the wings of the falcon and the limbs of the deer.

"2. Trita harnessed the horse which was given by Yama: Indra first mounted him, and Gandharba seized his reins. Vasus, you fabricated the horse from the sun.

"3. Thou, horse, art Yama: thou art Aditya: thou art Trita by a mysterious act: thou art associated with Soma. The sages have said there are three bindings of thee in heaven.

"4. They have said that three are thy bindings in heaven, three upon earth, and three in the firmament. Thou declarest to me, Horse, who art (one with) Varuna, that which they have called thy most excellent birth.

"5. I have beheld, Horse, these thy purifying (regions); these impressions of the feet of thee, who sharest in the sacrifice; and here thy auspicious reins, which are the protectors of the rite that preserve it.

"6. I recognise in my mind thy form afar off, going from (the earth) below, by way of heaven, to the sun. I behold thy head soaring aloft, and mounting quickly by unobstructed paths, unsullied by dust.

"7. I behold thy most excellent form coming eagerly to (receive) thy food in thy (holy) place of earth: when thy attendant brings thee nigh to the enjoyment (of the provender), therefore greedy, thou devourst the fodder.

"8. The car follows thee, O Horse: men attend thee; cattle follow thee; the loveliness of maidens (waits) upon thee; troops of demigods following thee have sought thy friendship; the gods themselves have been admirers of thy vigour.

"9. His mane is of gold; his feet are of iron; and fleet as thought, Indra is his inferior (in speed). The gods have come to partake of his (being offered as) oblation: the first who mounted the horse was Indra.

"10. The full-haunched, slender-waisted, high-spirited, and celestial coursers (of the sun), gallop along like swans in rows, when the horses spread along the heavenly path.

"11. Thy body, horse, is made for motion: thy mind is rapid (in intention) as the wind; the hairs (of thy mane) are tossed in manifold directions; and spread beautiful in the forests.

"12. The swift horse approaches the place of immolation, meditating with mind intent upon the gods: the goat bound to him is led before him; after him follow the priests and the singers.

"13. The horse proceeds to that assembly which is most excellent: to the presence of his father and his mother (heaven and earth). Go (Horse), to-day rejoicing to the gods, that (the sacrifice) may yield blessings to the donor."

It is our opinion that the great Indian peninsula was peopled gradually by immigrants through the Punjab, the degeneracy of physical frame increasing as they moved to warmer latitudes, and the archaic form of worship diminishing as they removed from the earlier centres of population. These hymns preserve something of the bolder spirit of the Tartars of the steppes, or the Arabs of the desert, before degenerating into the feeble Hinduism of the plains of India. We quote one of the most complete and finished hymns, addressed to Rudra, a favourable specimen of the style of these old Sanskrit poems:—

"1. Father of the Maruts, may thy felicity extend to us: exclude us not from the light of the sun: (grant that) our valiant (descendants) may overcome (these) foes, and that we may be multiplied, Rudra, by (our) progeny.

"2. Nourished by the sanatory vegetables which are bestowed by thee, may I live a hundred winters: extirpate mine enemies, my exceeding sin, and my manifold infirmities.

"3. Thou, Rudra, art the chiefest of beings in glory: thou wielder of the thunderbolt, art the

mightiest of the mighty : do thou waft us in safety over (the ocean) of sin : repel all the assaults of iniquity.

"4. Let us not provoke thee, Rudra, to wrath by our (imperfect) adorations ; nor, showerer (of benefits), by our unworthy praise, nor by our invocation (of other deities) : invigorate our souls by thy medicinal plants, for I hear that thou art a chief physician amongst physicians.

"5. May I pacify by my praises that Rudra, who is worshipped with invocations and oblations ; and never may he who is soft-bellied, of a tawny hue, and handsome chin ; who is reverently invoked ; subject us to that malevolent disposition (that purposes our destruction).

"6. May the showerer of benefits, the lord of the Maruts, gratify me his suppliant with invigorating food : may I, free from sin, so propitiate Rudra, that I may attain to his felicity, as a man, distressed by heat, (finds relief) in the shade.

"7. Where, Rudra, is thy joy-dispensing hand, which is the healer and delighter (of all) : showerer (of benefits), who art the dispeller of the sins of the gods, quickly have compassion upon me.

"8. I address infinite and earnest praise to the showerer (of benefits), the cherisher (of all), the white-complexioned : adore the consumer (of sin), with prostrations : we glorify the illustrious name of Rudra.

"9. (Firm) with strong limbs, assuming many forms, fierce, and tawny-coloured he shines with brilliant golden ornaments : vigour is inseparable from Rudra, the supreme ruler and lord of this world.

"10. Worthy (of reverence), thou bearest arrows and a bow ; worthy (of praise), thou wearest an adorable and omniform necklace ; worthy (of adoration), thou preservest all this vast universe : there is no one more powerful than thou.

"11. Glorify the renowned Rudra, riding in his car, ever youthful, destructive, fierce like a formidable wild beast : Rudra, propitiated by praise, grant happiness to him who praises (thee), and let thy hosts destroy him who is our adversary.

"12. I bow, Rudra, to thee, approaching (our rite), as a boy to his father when pronouncing a blessing upon him : I glorify thee, the giver of much (wealth), the protector of the virtuous ; do thou, thus glorified, bestow healing herbs upon me.

"13. Maruts, I solicit of you those medicaments which are pure ; those showerers (of benefits), which give great pleasure ; those which confer felicity ; those which (our) sire, Manu, selected ; and those (medicaments) of Rudra which are the alleviation (of disease), and defence (against danger).

"14. May the javelin of Rudra avoid us : may the great displeasure of the radiant deity pass away (from us) : showerer of benefits, turn away thy strong (bow) from the wealthy (offerers of oblations), and bestow happiness upon (our) sons and grandsons.

"15. Cherished of the world, showerer (of benefits), omniscient and divine (Rudra), hearer of our invocation, so consider us on this occasion, that thou mayest not be irate, nor slay us ; but that, blessed with excellent descendants, we may worthily glorify thee at this sacrifice."

The Maruts are generally understood to be the winds, but as frequently they represent clouds, as in the hymn of which these are the first three verses :—

"1. The Maruts, shedders of showers, endowed with resistless might, like formidable lions, reverencing (the world) by their energies, resplendent as fires, laden with water, and blowing about the wandering cloud, give vent to its (collected) rain.

"2. Since, golden-breasted Maruts, the vigorous (Rudra) begot you of the pure womb of Prithvi (the elevated place of the earth), therefore they, the devourers (of their enemies), are conspicuous (by their ornaments), as the heavens are by the constellations ; and, senders of rain, they are brilliant as the cloud-burn (lightning).

"3. They sprinkle the wide extended (lands) with water, as (men sprinkle) houses (when heated) in battle ; and they rush along with swift (horses)

on the skirts of the sounding (cloud) : Maruts, golden-helmeted, and of one mind, agitating (the trees), come with your spotted deer to (receive the sacrificial) food."

In an introductory essay, Professor Wilson explains the principles on which he has prepared his version, the difficulties attending which are well known to Sanskrit scholars, who will generally approve both the conduct and the result of his learned labours. The example given of the diversities of rendering of a short and apparently easy passage by previous translators, serves well to show the difficulties to be overcome in giving an exact English version. The author has acted wisely in availing himself, wherever practicable, of the light thrown on the text by the gloss of the scholiast Sáyana Achárya, whose aid is suitably acknowledged. To the labours of Professor Müller in publishing the text of this second division of the Rig-Veda, and of Professor Wilson in furnishing this careful translation, students of Hindu history and institutions, as well as of Sanskrit literature, are deeply indebted. Although the number may at present be small of those who take direct interest in such studies, yet the publication of the results of them is of immense importance, as the teachers and missionaries in the East are furnished with facts by which the strongholds of idolatry will be weakened, and the way prepared for a higher faith and purer religion. On this account we regard the restoration of the Rig-Veda as a matter of more than mere antiquarian interest.

### *Percy Blake ; or, The Young Rifleman.* By Captain Rafter. 3 vols. Hurst and Blackett.

PERCY BLAKE is a capital novel of the Charles O'Malley and Harry Lorrequer school, full of dashing adventure, with scenes of real history cleverly introduced into the narrative. It is in the form of an autobiography, in which the hero tells the most memorable events of his life at home and abroad. Percy Blake is 'a Tipperary Boy,' who was early inspired with martial ardour by his uncle, Sergeant O'Flaherty, who had returned to his native place for a time with a recruiting party. After serving in the militia, Percy got a commission in the gallant 52nd, and took part in many of the brilliant exploits of the Light Division in the Peninsular war. He afterwards served in India, and gives lively and graphic sketches of life and of war in the East. In the early part of the story are presented reminiscences of barrack and garrison life in England, when he had an ensigncy in the Herefordshire Militia, or 'the Apple-Greens,' as they were called, after the county of cider. His first active service was in the ill-starred Walcheren expedition, the finest armament that ever left the shores of Great Britain, consisting of forty thousand troops, and a noble fleet of thirty-nine sail of the line, and thirty-six frigates, with innumerable gunboats, bomb vessels, and transports :—

"The object of this armament was the occupation of Flushing, with the destruction of the French ships, arsenals, and dockyards at Antwerp ; and, by these means, to create a powerful diversion in favour of Austria, then vigorously pressed by Bonaparte, after his triumphs at Austerlitz, Landshut, and Eckmühl, prior to the decisive battle of Wagram. The period was certainly critical ; and the fortune of that disastrous campaign might have been changed, had our enterprise succeeded, as it ought to have done. But the un-

happy dissensions between the Earl of Chatham, our Commander-in-Chief, and Admiral Sir Richard Strachan, who commanded the fleet, totally defeated the great object for which this immense armament was got together ; and some thousands of brave soldiers were thus doomed to perish miserably from malaria, in the swamps of that little molehill, on which they had scarcely more than standing room."

The melancholy issue of this expedition is well known, and was brought too forcibly to recollection by the mismanagement and incapacity that were witnessed in the early months of the present war. But it is satisfactory to know that in our time the progress of invention and art has rendered impossible some of the horrors to which the soldiers of former wars were subjected, such as here described in the account of the transport service of 1809 :—

"Let the reader then fancy, if he can, an old tub of a collier, employed for the last thirty years in the Newcastle trade ; ill-built, ugly, confined, inconvenient, adapted for nothing in the world but carrying coals, and altogether inadequate for the purpose to which it was now devoted. The cabin, in which twelve or fifteen gentlemen of liberal education, refined habits, and aspiring hopes were to stow themselves as best they might, was about ten feet by eight, very low, confined, gloomy, ill-ventilated ; with an overpowering aroma of tar, rotten cheese, onions, garlic, rusty bacon, salt fish, and a variety of other undefinable smells, enough to drive any one distracted who possessed olfactory nerves of the least possible sensibility.

"Then the various noises that constantly broke upon the ear ; the grinding of the rudder at every pull of the tiller-ropes, the creaking of bulkheads, the swaying of the mizen boom, the flapping of wet sails, the eternal hauling of ropes, the cries of the sailors, the stamping on the deck, together with the cursing, swearing, scolding, shouting, bellowing, and blaspheming of the captain, (save the mark !) an ignorant, ill-tempered, and insolent sea-going monster. All these formed a never-ending chorus with the kindred horrors of wind and waves, which made every one of us eager to jump at any land-perils or privations that might offer themselves, merely to escape the literal Inferno, where we were now "cribbed, cabin'd, and confined," very little better, I imagine, than so many negroes bound from the Gold Coast to that especial land of liberty, the United States."

The Spanish part of the story, though going over ground familiarly known, is deeply interesting, for we never tire of reading of the gallant achievements of the British army in the Peninsula, and along with accounts of some of the memorable battles, and anecdotes of Wellington and Crawford, and other heroes of the war, there are striking pictures of the country and the people. One of the sketches of scenery we give :—

"Morning broke sweetly upon this mountain barrier between two nations so closely connected, yet so dissimilar in many respects ; the first impression we received of having crossed the frontier being the palpable difference between the sonorous Castilian and the squeaking language of Lusitania addressed to us by the peasants of this wild district. The scenery was striking and picturesque : the road sometimes passing beneath a succession of lofty peaks on one side, while on the other lay a deep and narrow gulf, from which arose the faint murmur of the torrent that wound its tortuous course at the bottom. The lower sides of the mountain were covered luxuriantly with forests of beech, olives, and cork trees ; while, in the higher regions, the evergreen oak stretched its venerable boughs across some dark ravine ; and the gloomy pine crowned the very summits, twisted and torn by the violence of the wintry gales.

"We had very little trace of a road ; looking our way along tracts of uncultivated and un-



vale land, covered with a thick underwood of gum-cistus, and other aromatic and medicinal plants, which, under the pressure of our mules' feet, loaded the air with a rich perfume. As the morning advanced, the cold blue tint of the mountains gradually warmed up to lilac, then to pink, and pale yellow, till at last the lofty pinnacles were deeply tinged with crimson, orange, and gold, as the glorious luminary rose above the horizon.

"There were very few symptoms of life in these vast solitudes; the bell of a hermitage, perhaps, sounding amidst the rocks and woods, or a thin wreath of smoke curling upwards from the dense foliage. Occasionally a flock of goats might be seen suspended almost in the air, browsing among the cliffs, under the care of a wild-looking goatherd, clothed in sheep-skins; while a ratero, or solitary footpad, would claim acquaintance with Diego, who seemed well known in these parts; or a pilgrim to St. James of Compostella, with 'cockle-shell and sandal shoon,' would bestow a benediction on the travellers.

"Having now, thanks to the smugglers, a certain point to steer by, instead of going, at the mercy of chance, to some distant part of the British lines, which necessarily occupied an extended space of country, Diego took his measures accordingly. Being himself a very active smuggler, as indeed the guerrilleros generally were, he knew every track in this part of the Peninsula, highway and bye-way, and could calculate to a nicety the places to be avoided, and the retired ventas where we could safely stop for rest and refreshment."

The scenes of Indian life in the camp and in the jungle, are more unusual in works of the kind, and as the author seems to write from his own recollections of the country, this part of the story is told with much spirit, besides communicating information that will be acceptable to English readers. Occasionally the novelist's privilege of pulling the long-bow is a little overstrained, as in the adventure of the boa, which Captain Blake mistook for the trunk of a palmyra tree, and sat down upon it, when he had lost his way in the forest. His discovery and rescue by his brother officer is thus ludicrously told:—

"At length, nearly exhausted by fatigue and anxiety, I sat down on the long, round stem of a palmyra tree, which lay stretched across my path, half buried in rank weeds and jungle-grass; determined to wait there till some one should come to my assistance.

"They approached at length on every side; and the first that appeared was Croker himself, who gave a view hallo the moment he perceived me. He was coming down a gentle slope laughing and singing in his usual unsophisticated manner, till he got within thirty yards of where I sat, fairly fagged with the exertions of the day. Then suddenly stopping, and looking, as I thought, particularly wicked, he brought his rifle to the present, and fired off both barrels directly at me; so effectually, indeed, that I tumbled backwards from the object on which I was seated, mortally wounded, as I naturally concluded.

"I jumped up, however; and, though I looked upon myself as a dead man, the most savage revenge inspired my breast, for it struck me that Croker had been either seized with sudden frenzy; or, in a paroxysm of jealous spite, had taken advantage of this secluded spot to murder one whose morning exploit had cast his own into the shade. I therefore sprang at him, determined to avail myself of the few remaining moments of existence to punish his treachery. I seized him by the collar, and shook him, tall and towering as he was; but to my utter amazement he was chinking with laughter.

"By Jupiter!" at last he exclaimed, 'you are mad, Blake. Just look at what you were sitting on.'

"I looked, and behold, to my horror and astonishment, that the palmyra stem on which I had been sitting was in motion, writhing in frightful convul-

sions, lashing the rocks, trees, and brambles with the most intense and destructive fury.

"Stand clear of him!" shouted Croker, dragging me away from the spot. 'If he gives you a whisk of his tail, you're done for!'

"Bewildered and stupified, I gazed on the phenomenon, till the supernatural convulsions gradually subsided, and the object, whatever it was, animal or vegetable, lay gasping, fluttering, and finally motionless and deprived of existence."

Although the bulk of the story is composed of martial elements, the gentler influences of love are not forgotten, and the susceptible Tipperary boy has a long series of experiences to tell on this subject, he being like 'the ancient sage philosopher,' in Hudibras,

"Who swore the world, as he could prove,  
Was made of fighting, and of love."

The worst fault we find in Captain Rafter's book is the amount of space devoted to details of the practical jokes, duels, and other follies of barrack life, and this in a way not calculated to have a wholesome effect on young military readers. Such scenes were formerly more frequent than they are now, but they might have been presented, as has been done in Lieutenant Arnold's story of 'Oakfield, or Fellowship in the East,' so as to exhibit, in marked contrast, the conduct of the unprincipled and the well-behaved officers of the service. Even the tricks and sports, which arise from nothing worse than boyish thoughtlessness, might have been made to appear less worthy of being minutely chronicled by Percy Blake. When the great Napoleon was a *sous-officier* at Lyons, he was often rallied by his companions for not joining in their frolics, and shutting himself up in his room with his books and studies. A few years after, in passing through the city to cross the Alps, he called at his old quarters, and talking over these days, he said, "If I had done as my companions did, I should not now be commander of the army of Italy."

*The Private Life of an Eastern King.* By a Member of the Household of his late Majesty, Nussir-u-deen, King of Oude. Hope and Co.

We happen to know that the main statements of this extraordinary book are perfectly true. Our informant was personally acquainted with some of the personages who figure in the narrative, and assures us that this is only a partial revelation of what was known to every Englishman who visited Lucknow about twenty years ago. Nussir-u-deen, son of Ghazi-u-deen, the first king, was then upon the throne of Oude. Although much reduced from its size and wealth while a province of the Great Mogul Empire, and ruled by the Nawab Vizier, the kingdom of Oude, as arranged after the Nepalese war, still remained an important territory. Its population was nearly five millions, being more than any of the German States in Europe except Prussia and Austria, and in extent greater than Holland and Belgium, or than Switzerland, Saxony, and Württemberg put together. It was equal to one of the second-rate powers of Europe, such as Naples or Bavaria, though in Asia it is reckoned of no great account. The revenue of the State was about two millions sterling, besides irregular exactions of unknown and unreported amount. Nussir-u-deen was a prince naturally of some ability and good disposition, but brutalized by dissipation and crime. Strange tales are current in the East about the court of Lucknow under

his reign. Some of these doings were always matter of public notoriety, but in the present volume some notices of the inner life of the palace and court are given by one who was behind the scenes. The king, it is well known, had a great fondness for Europeans provided they were not in the Company's service; and at the period to which this narrative belongs, the European part of the royal household was composed of the following members, including the author of the narrative:—

"One was nominally the king's tutor, employed to teach him English; his librarian was another; his portrait-painter was a third; the captain of his body-guard was a fourth; and last, but by no means least, his barber—his European barber—was a fifth. Of these five I was one.

"The barber was the greatest man of the five. His influence was far greater than the native prime minister, or Nawab. He was known to be an especial favourite, and all men paid court to him. His history, truly and honestly written, would form one of the oddest chapters of human life. All that I knew of him was this:—

"He had come out to Calcutta as cabin-boy in a ship. Having been brought up as a hairdresser in London, he had left his ship, on arriving in Calcutta, to resume his old business. He was successful; he pushed and puffed himself into notoriety. At length he took to going up the river with European merchandise for sale; he became, in fact, what is called there a river-trader. Arrived at Lucknow, he found a resident—not the same who was there when I entered the king's service— anxious to have his naturally lank hair curled like the governor-general's. The governor-general was distinguished by his ringlets; and the governor-general is, of course, 'the glass of fashion and the mould of form' in India. The resident would be like him; and the river-trader was not above resuming his old business. Marvellous was the alteration he made in the resident's appearance; and so the great saheb himself introduced the wonder-working barber to the king. That resident is in England now, and writes M.P. after his name.

"The king had peculiarly lank, straight hair; not the most innocent approach to a curl had ever been seen on it. The barber wrought wonders again, and the king was delighted. Honours and wealth were showered upon the lucky *coiffeur*. He was given a title of nobility. *Sofraz Khan* ('the illustrious chief') was his new name, and men bowed to him in Oude. The whilom cabin-boy was a man of power now, and wealth was rapidly flowing in upon him. The king's favourite soon becomes wealthy in a native state. The barber, however, had other sources of profit open to him besides bribery; he supplied all the wine and beer used at the king's table. Every European article required at court came through his hands, and the raffles accumulated in thousands. 'What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour?' is a question as apt now in every oriental court as it was when the Jewish queen recorded it.

"Nussir put no bounds to the honours he heaped upon the fascinating barber; unlimited confidence was placed in him. By small degrees he had at last become a regular guest at the royal table, and sat down to take dinner with the king as a thing of right; nor would his majesty taste a bottle of wine opened by any other hands than the barber's. So afraid was his majesty of being poisoned by his own family, that every bottle of wine was sealed in the barber's house before being brought to the king's table; and before he opened it, the little man looked carefully at the seal to see that it was all right. He then opened it and took a portion of a glass first, before filling one for the king. Such was the etiquette at the royal table, when I first took my place at it.

"The confidence reposed in the favourite was, of course, soon generally known over India, or at all events in Bengal. The 'how mortal,' as the

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## REVIEWS.

*Rig-Veda Sanhita. Vol. II. The Second Ashtaka, or Book of the Rig-Veda.* Translated from the original Sanskrit by H. H. Wilson, M.A., F.R.S. W. H. Allen and Co.

THROUGH the liberality of the Court of Directors of the East India Company, Professor Wilson is enabled to continue a work, for the publication of which there would not otherwise be sufficient encouragement in this country. To Sanskrit scholars, and those versed in Oriental literature, any recommendation of the work would be superfluous; but, for the sake of general readers, it may be well to give a short statement of the remarkable writings now brought within the reach of their study in a literal English translation. The ancient Hindu hymns, constituting the books of the Rig-Veda, contain authentic notices of the social and religious condition of the nations of India at least fifteen centuries before the Christian era. These early documents are valuable on other accounts than from their direct descriptions of the religious creed and practices of the people. The mythology is somewhat vague and confused, and it is not easy to form a clear conception of the religious system, which was evidently in a transition state from a simpler patriarchal and domestic form to a more complex and grosser idolatry under sacerdotal organization. One thing is plain from these old Vedas, that the heathenism of India degenerated in lapse of time, and that the earlier system of Hindu worship did not sanction many of the follies and enormities of modern Brahmanism. Many of the divinities invoked in the hymns are obviously only allegorical or poetical titles of the sun, the moon, the earth, the air, the winds, and other natural objects, and the spirit of the worship is akin to what inspired the devotional feelings of the Sabæans, the Chaldees, and other more western nations. We think also that many of the divinities which Professor Wilson and other learned scholars enumerate as proper names and distinct personages, are mere adjective synonyms. For instance, the sun is addressed under great variety of characters and operations. But it would occupy too much space to attempt any analysis and classification of the Hindu Pantheon; and we proceed to notice some of the remarkable illustrations, furnished by the second book of the Rig-Veda, of the history, institutions, and manners of the people. Some of these are thus enumerated by Professor Wilson, references being given to the particular passages in which the allusions are found:—

"In their towns or cities we find existing the arts, sciences, institutes, and vices of civilized life, golden ornaments, coats of mail, weapons of offence, the use of the precious metals, of musical instruments, the fabrication of cars, and the employment of the needle; and although we have not the allusions to traders by sea that occur in the first Ashtaka, yet the unequivocal notices and mention of the ocean, are so frequent and precise as to prove beyond doubt its being familiarly known and occasionally navigated: we have also the knowledge of drugs and antidotes, the practice of medicine, and computation of the divisions of time to a minute extent, including repeated allusions to the seventh season, or intercalary month. We have mention, not only of Rájás, but of envoys and heralds, of travellers, and of Sarais, or places provided for their refreshment: it is true that in the passage in which they are named, the refreshments

are said to be provided for the Maruts, or the winds; but in this, as in the case of the cities of the Asuras, the notion must have been derived from what really existed; Prapathas, or choltris, were not likely to be pure mythological inventions; those for the Maruts must have had their prototypes on earth. Then with regard to the laws of property, it appears, although not very perspicuously described, that daughters had claims to a share of the paternal inheritance: that women took part in sacrifices, we have already seen, and it seems that they appeared abroad in public; of some of the vices of the civilized state, we have proofs in the notice of common women, of secret births, and by inference of the abandonment of new-born children; thieves are frequently mentioned; debts and debtors are adverted to more than once, and although the idea is complicated with that of moral obligations, yet debt must originate in fact before it becomes a figure: reverses of fortune and being reduced to poverty from a state of opulence, form the burden of more than one Sákta; all these particulars, although they are only briefly and incidentally thrown out, chiefly by way of comparison or illustration, render it indisputable that the Hindus of the Vaidik era even had attained to an advanced stage of civilization, little if at all differing from that in which they were found by the Greeks at Alexander's invasion, although no doubt they had not spread so far to the east, and were located chiefly in the Punjab and along the Indus; the same advanced state of civilization may be inferred from the degree of perfection to which the grammatical construction of the language had been brought, and still more from the elaborate system of metrical composition of which so many examples occur, and of which the Suktas attributed to the Rishi Paruchhepa, afford such remarkable instances."

There are two hymns in this Ashtaka, descriptive of the sacrifice of horses to the sun, accompanied by rites and services, such as eating the flesh of animals, alien from the spirit of Hinduism at a later period. Herodotus reports that such sacrifices were made by the Scythians and also by the Massagetae. One of the hymns describes, with somewhat revolting details, the mode of the sacrifice; another, which is devoted more to the praise of the animal, we give as translated by the Boden Professor, prefixing six verses of the former hymn:—

"1. Let neither Mitra nor Varuna, Aryaman, Ayu, Indra, Ribbhukshin, nor the Maruts, censure us; when we proclaim in the sacrifice the virtues of the swift horse sprung from the gods.

"2. When they (the priests), bring the prepared offering to the presence (of the horse), who has been bathed and decorated with rich (trappings), the various-coloured goat going before him, bleating, becomes an acceptable offering to Indra and Páshan.

"3. This goat, the portion of Páshan, fit for all the gods, is brought first with the fleet courser, so that Twashtri may prepare him along with the horse, as an acceptable preliminary offering for the (sacrificial) food.

"4. When the priests at the season (of the ceremony) lead forth the horse, the offering devoted to the gods, thrice round (the sacrificial fire); then the goat, the portion of Páshan, goes first, announcing the sacrifice to the gods.

"5. The invoker of the gods, the minister of the fire, the offerer of the oblation, the kindler of the fire, the bruiser of the Soma plant, the director of the ceremony, the sage (superintendent of the whole); do you replenish the rivers by this well-ordered, well-conducted, sacrifice.

"6. Whether they be those who cut the (sacrificial) post, or those who bear the post, or those who fasten the rings on the top of the post, to which the horse (is bound); or those who prepare the vessels in which the food of the horse is dressed; let the exertions of them all fulfil our expectations.

"1. Thy great birth, O Horse, is to be glorified; whether first springing from the firmament or from the water, inasmuch as thou hast neighed (auspiciously), for thou hast the wings of the falcon and the limbs of the deer.

"2. Trita harnessed the horse which was given by Yama: Indra first mounted him, and Gandharba seized his reins. Vasus, you fabricated the horse from the sun.

"3. Thou, horse, art Yama: thou art Aditya: thou art Trita by a mysterious act: thou art associated with Soma. The sages have said there are three bindings of thee in heaven.

"4. They have said that three are thy bindings in heaven, three upon earth, and three in the firmament. Thou declarest to me, Horse, who art (one with) Varuna, that which they have called thy most excellent birth.

"5. I have beheld, Horse, these thy purifying (regions); these impressions of the feet of thee, who sharest in the sacrifice; and here thy auspicious reins, which are the protectors of the rite that preserve it.

"6. I recognise in my mind thy form afar off, going from (the earth) below, by way of heaven, to the sun. I behold thy head soaring aloft, and mounting quickly by unobstructed paths, unsullied by dust.

"7. I behold thy most excellent form coming eagerly to (receive) thy food in thy (holy) place of earth: when thy attendant brings thee high to the enjoyment (of the provender), therefore greedy, thou devourst the fodder.

"8. The car follows thee, O Horse: men attend thee; cattle follow thee; the loveliness of maidens (waits) upon thee; troops of demigods following thee have sought thy friendship; the gods themselves have been admirers of thy vigour.

"9. His mane is of gold; his feet are of iron; and fleet as thought, Indra is his inferior (in speed). The gods have come to partake of his (being offered as) oblation: the first who mounted the horse was Indra.

"10. The full-haunched, slender-waisted, high-spirited, and celestial coursers (of the sun), gallop along like swans in rows, when the horses spread along the heavenly path.

"11. Thy body, horse, is made for motion: thy mind is rapid (in intention) as the wind; the hairs (of thy mane) are tossed in manifold directions; and spread beautiful in the forests.

"12. The swift horse approaches the place of immolation, meditating with mind intent upon the gods: the goat bound to him is led before him; after him follow the priests and the singers.

"13. The horse proceeds to that assembly which is most excellent: to the presence of his father and his mother (heaven and earth). Go (Horse), today rejoicing to the gods, that (the sacrifice) may yield blessings to the donor."

It is our opinion that the great Indian peninsula was peopled gradually by immigrants through the Punjab, the degeneracy of physical frame increasing as they moved to warmer latitudes, and the archaic form of worship diminishing as they removed from the earlier centres of population. These hymns preserve something of the bolder spirit of the Tartars of the steppes, or the Arabs of the desert, before degenerating into the feeble Hindu of the plains of India. We quote one of the most complete and finished hymns, addressed to Rudra, a favourable specimen of the style of these old Sanskrit poems:—

"1. Father of the Maruts, may thy felicity extend to us: exclude us not from the light of the sun: (grant that) our valiant (descendants) may overcome (these) foes, and that we may be multiplied, Rudra, by (our) progeny.

"2. Nourished by the sanatory vegetables which are bestowed by thee, may I live a hundred winters: extirpate mine enemies, my exceeding sin, and my manifold infirmities.

"3. Thou, Rudra, art the chiefest of beings in glory: thou wielder of the thunderbolt, art the

mightiest of the mighty : do thou waft us in safety over (the ocean) of sin : repel all the assaults of iniquity.

"4. Let us not provoke thee, Rudra, to wrath by our (imperfect) adorations ; nor, showerer (of benefits), by our unworthy praise, nor by our invocation (of other deities) : invigorate our sons by thy medicinal plants, for I hear that thou art a chief physician amongst physicians.

"5. May I pacify by my praises that Rudra, who is worshipped with invocations and oblations ; and never may he who is soft-bellied, of a tawny hue, and handsome chin ; who is reverently invoked ; subject us to that malevolent disposition (that purposes our destruction).

"6. May the showerer of benefits, the lord of the Maruts, gratify me his suppliant with invigorating food : may I, free from sin, so propitiate Rudra, that I may attain to his felicity, as a man, distressed by heat, (finds relief) in the shade.

"7. Where, Rudra, is thy joy-dispensing hand, which is the healer and delighter (of all) : showerer (of benefits), who art the dispeller of the sins of the gods, quickly have compassion upon me.

"8. I address infinite and earnest praise to the showerer (of benefits), the cherisher (of all), the white-complexioned : adore the consumer (of sin), with prostrations : we glorify the illustrious name of Rudra.

"9. (Firm) with strong limbs, assuming many forms, fierce, and tawny-coloured he shines with brilliant golden ornaments : vigour is inseparable from Rudra, the supreme ruler and lord of this world.

"10. Worthy (of reverence), thou bearest arrows and a bow ; worthy (of praise), thou wearest an adorable and omniform necklace ; worthy (of adoration), thou preservest all this vast universe : there is no one more powerful than thou.

"11. Glorify the renowned Rudra, riding in his car, ever youthful, destructive, fierce like a formidable wild beast : Rudra, propitiated by praise, grant happiness to him who praises (thee), and let thy hosts destroy him who is our adversary.

"12. I bow, Rudra, to thee, approaching (our rite), as a boy to his father when pronouncing a blessing upon him : I glorify thee, the giver of much (wealth), the protector of the virtuous ; do thou, thus glorified, bestow healing herbs upon me.

"13. Maruts, I solicit of you those medicaments which are pure ; those showerers (of benefits), which give great pleasure ; those which confer felicity ; those which (our) sire, Manu, selected ; and those (medicaments) of Rudra which are the alleviation (of disease), and defence (against danger).

"14. May the javelin of Rudra avoid us : may the great displeasure of the radiant deity pass away (from us) : showerer of benefits, turn away thy strong (bow) from the wealthy (offerers of oblations), and bestow happiness upon (our) sons and grandsons.

"15. Cherished of the world, showerer (of benefits), omniscient and divine (Rudra), hearer of our invocation, so consider us on this occasion, that thou mayest not be irate, nor slay us ; but that, blessed with excellent descendants, we may worthily glorify thee at this sacrifice."

The Maruts are generally understood to be the winds, but as frequently they represent clouds, as in the hymn of which these are the first three verses :—

"1. The Maruts, shedders of showers, endowed with resistless might, like formidable lions, reverencing (the world) by their energies, resplendent as fires, laden with water, and blowing about the wandering cloud, give vent to its (collected) rain.

"2. Since, golden-breasted Maruts, the vigorous (Rudra) begot you of the pure womb of Primi (the elevated place of the earth), therefore they, the devourers (of their enemies), are conspicuous (by their ornaments), as the heavens are by the constellations ; and, senders of rain, they are brilliant as the cloud-born (lightning).

"3. They sprinkle the wide-extended (lands) with water, as (men sprinkle) horses (when heated) in battles ; and they rush along with swift (horses)

on the skirts of the sounding (cloud) : Maruts, golden-helmeted, and of one mind, agitating (the trees), come with your spotted deer to (receive the sacrificial) food."

In an introductory essay, Professor Wilson explains the principles on which he has prepared his version, the difficulties attending which are well known to Sanskrit scholars, who will generally approve both the conduct and the result of his learned labours. The example given of the diversities of rendering of a short and apparently easy passage by previous translators, serves well to show the difficulties to be overcome in giving an exact English version. The author has acted wisely in availing himself, wherever practicable, of the light thrown on the text by the gloss of the scholiast Sāyana Achārya, whose aid is suitably acknowledged. To the labours of Professor Müller in publishing the text of this second division of the Rig-Veda, and of Professor Wilson in furnishing this careful translation, students of Hindu history and institutions, as well as of Sanskrit literature, are deeply indebted. Although the number may at present be small of those who take direct interest in such studies, yet the publication of the results of them is of immense importance, as the teachers and missionaries in the East are furnished with facts by which the strongholds of idolatry will be weakened, and the way prepared for a higher faith and purer religion. On this account we regard the restoration of the Rig-Veda as a matter of more than mere antiquarian interest.

*Percy Blake ; or, The Young Rifleman.*  
By Captain Rafter. 3 vols. Hurst and Blackett.

PERCY BLAKE is a capital novel of the Charles O'Malley and Harry Lorrequer school, full of dashing adventure, with scenes of real history cleverly introduced into the narrative. It is in the form of an autobiography, in which the hero tells the most memorable events of his life at home and abroad. Percy Blake is 'a Tipperary Boy,' who was early inspired with martial ardour by his uncle, Sergeant O'Flaherty, who had returned to his native place for a time with a recruiting party. After serving in the militia, Percy got a commission in the gallant 52nd, and took part in many of the brilliant exploits of the Light Division in the Peninsular war. He afterwards served in India, and gives lively and graphic sketches of life and of war in the East. In the early part of the story are presented reminiscences of barrack and garrison life in England, when he had an ensigncy in the Herefordshire Militia, or 'the Apple-Greens,' as they were called, after the county of cider. His first active service was in the ill-starred Walcheren expedition, the finest armament that ever left the shores of Great Britain, consisting of forty thousand troops, and a noble fleet of thirty-nine sail of the line, and thirty-six frigates, with innumerable gunboats, bomb vessels, and transports :—

"The object of this armament was the occupation of Flushing, with the destruction of the French ships, arsenals, and dockyards at Antwerp ; and, by these means, to create a powerful diversion in favour of Austria, then vigorously pressed by Bonaparte, after his triumphs at Abensberg, Landshut, and Eckmühl, prior to the decisive battle of Wagram. The period was certainly critical ; and the fortune of that disastrous campaign might have been changed, had our enterprise succeeded, as it ought to have done. But the un-

happy dissensions between the Earl of Chatham, our Commander-in-Chief, and Admiral Sir Richard Strachan, who commanded the fleet, totally defeated the great object for which this immense armament was got together ; and some thousands of brave soldiers were thus doomed to perish miserably from malaria, in the swamps of that little molehill, on which they had scarcely more than standing room."

The melancholy issue of this expedition is well known, and was brought too forcibly to recollection by the mismanagement and incapacity that were witnessed in the early months of the present war. But it is satisfactory to know that in our time the progress of invention and art has rendered impossible some of the horrors to which the soldiers of former wars were subjected, such as here described in the account of the transport service of 1809 :—

"Let the reader then fancy, if he can, an old tub of a collier, employed for the last thirty years in the Newcastle trade ; ill-built, ugly, confined, inconvenient, adapted for nothing in the world but carrying coals, and altogether inadequate for the purpose to which it was now devoted. The cabin, in which twelve or fifteen gentlemen of liberal education, refined habits, and aspiring hopes were to stow themselves as best they might, was about ten feet by eight, very low, confined, gloomy, ill-ventilated ; with an overpowering aroma of tar, rotten cheese, onions, garlic, rusty bacon, salt fish, and a variety of other undefinable smells, enough to drive any one distracted who possessed olfactory nerves of the least possible sensibility.

"Then the various noises that constantly broke upon the ear ; the grinding of the rudder at every pull of the tiller-rope, the creaking of bulkheads, the swaying of the mizen boom, the flapping of wet sails, the eternal hauling of ropes, the cries of the sailors, the stamping on the deck, together with the cursing, swearing, scolding, shouting, bellowing, and blaspheming of the captain, (save the mark !) an ignorant, ill-tempered, and insolent sea-going monster. All these formed a never-ending chorus with the kindred horrors of wind and waves, which made every one of us eager to jump at any land-perils or privations that might offer themselves, merely to escape the literal Inferno, where we were now 'cribbed, cabin'd, and confined ;' very little better, I imagine, than so many negroes bound from the Gold Coast to that especial land of liberty, the United States."

The Spanish part of the story, though going over ground familiarly known, is deeply interesting, for we never tire of reading of the gallant achievements of the British army in the Peninsula, and along with accounts of some of the memorable battles, and anecdotes of Wellington and Crawford, and other heroes of the war, there are striking pictures of the country and the people. One of the sketches of scenery we give :—

"Morning broke sweetly upon this mountain barrier between two nations so closely connected, yet so dissimilar in many respects ; the first indication we received of having crossed the frontier being the palpable difference between the sonorous Castilian and the squeaking language of Lusitania, addressed to us by the peasants of this wild district. The scenery was striking and picturesque : the road sometimes passing beneath a succession of lofty peaks on one side, while on the other lay a deep and narrow gulf, from which arose the faint murmur of the torrent that wound its tortuous course at the bottom. The lower sides of the mountain were covered luxuriantly with forests of beech, olives, and cork trees ; while, in the higher regions, the evergreen oak stretched its venerable boughs across some dark ravine ; and the gloomy pine crowned the very summits, twisted and driven by the violence of the wintry gales.

"We had very little trace of a road ; holding our way along tracts of uncultivated and unculti-



vale land, covered with a thick underwood of gum-cistus, and other aromatic and medicinal plants, which, under the pressure of our mules' feet, loaded the air with a rich perfume. As the morning advanced, the cold blue tint of the mountains gradually warmed up to lilac, then to pink, and pale yellow, till at last the lofty pinnacles were deeply tinged with crimson, orange, and gold, as the glorious luminary rose above the horizon.

"There were very few symptoms of life in these vast solitudes; the bell of a hermitage, perhaps, sounding amidst the rocks and woods, or a thin wreath of smoke curling upwards from the dense foliage. Occasionally a flock of goats might be seen suspended almost in the air, browsing among the cliffs, under the care of a wild-looking goatherd, clothed in sheep-skins; while a ratero, or solitary footpad, would claim acquaintance with Diego, who seemed well known in these parts; or a pilgrim to St. James of Compostella, with 'cockle-shell and sandal shoon,' would bestow a benediction on the travellers.

"Having now, thanks to the smugglers, a certain point to steer by, instead of going, at the mercy of chance, to some distant part of the British lines, which necessarily occupied an extended space of country, Diego took his measures accordingly. Being himself a very active smuggler, as indeed the guerrilleros generally were, he knew every track in this part of the Peninsula, highway and bye-way, and could calculate to a nicety the places to be avoided, and the retired ventas where we could safely stop for rest and refreshment."

The scenes of Indian life in the camp and in the jungle, are more unusual in works of the kind, and as the author seems to write from his own recollections of the country, this part of the story is told with much spirit, besides communicating information that will be acceptable to English readers. Occasionally the novelist's privilege of pulling the long-bow is a little overstrained, as in the adventure of the boa, which Captain Blake mistook for the trunk of a palmyra tree and sat down upon it, when he had lost his way in the forest. His discovery and rescue by his brother officer is thus ludicrously told:—

"At length, nearly exhausted by fatigue and anxiety, I sat down on the long, round stem of a palmyra tree, which lay stretched across my path, half buried in rank weeds and jungle-grass; determined to wait there till some one should come to my assistance.

"They approached at length on every side; and the first that appeared was Croker himself, who gave a view halo the moment he perceived me. He was coming down a gentle slope laughing and singing in his usual unsophisticated manner, till he got within thirty yards of where I sat, fairly fagged with the exertions of the day. Then suddenly stopping, and looking, as I thought, particularly wicked, he brought his rifle to the present, and fired off both barrels directly at me; so effectually, indeed, that I tumbled backwards from the object on which I was seated, mortally wounded, as I naturally concluded.

"I jumped up, however; and, though I looked upon myself as a dead man, the most savage revenge inspired my breast, for it struck me that Croker had been either seized with sudden frenzy; or, in a paroxysm of jealous spite, had taken advantage of this secluded spot to murder one whose morning exploit had cast his own into the shade. I therefore sprang at him, determined to avenge myself of the few remaining moments of existence to punish his treachery. I seized him by the collar, and shook him, tall and towering as he was; but to my utter amazement he was choking with laughter.

"By Jupiter!" at last he exclaimed, "you are mad, Blake. Just look at what you were sitting on."

"I looked, and beheld, to my horror and astonishment, that the palmyra stem on which I had been sitting was in motion, writhing in frightful convul-

sions, lashing the rocks, trees, and brambles with the most intense and destructive fury.

"Stand clear of him!" shouted Croker, dragging me away from the spot. "If he gives you a whisk of his tail, you're done for!"

"Bewildered and stupefied, I gazed on the phenomenon, till the supernatural convulsions gradually subsided, and the object, whatever it was, animal or vegetable, lay gasping, fluttering, and finally motionless and deprived of existence."

Although the bulk of the story is composed of martial elements, the gentler influences of love are not forgotten, and the susceptible Tipperary boy has a long series of experiences to tell on this subject, he being like 'the ancient sage philosopher,' in Hudibras,

"Who swore the world, as he could prove,  
Was made of fighting, and of love."

The worst fault we find in Captain Rafter's book is the amount of space devoted to details of the practical jokes, duels, and other follies of barrack life, and this in a way not calculated to have a wholesome effect on young military readers. Such scenes were formerly more frequent than they are now, but they might have been presented, as has been done in Lieutenant Arnold's story of 'Oakfield, or Fellowship in the East,' so as to exhibit, in marked contrast, the conduct of the unprincipled and the well-behaved officers of the service. Even the tricks and sports, which arise from nothing worse than boyish thoughtlessness, might have been made to appear less worthy of being minutely chronicled by Percy Blake. When the great Napoleon was a *sous-officier* at Lyons, he was often rallied by his companions for not joining in their frolics, and shutting himself up in his room with his books and studies. A few years after, in passing through the city to cross the Alps, he called at his old quarters, and talking over these days, he said, "If I had done as my companions did, I should not now be commander of the army of Italy."

*The Private Life of an Eastern King.* By a Member of the Household of his late Majesty, Nussir-u-deen, King of Oude. Hope and Co.

We happen to know that the main statements of this extraordinary book are perfectly true. Our informant was personally acquainted with some of the personages who figure in the narrative, and assures us that this is only a partial revelation of what was known to every Englishman who visited Lucknow about twenty years ago. Nussir-u-deen, son of Ghazi-u-deen, the first king, was then upon the throne of Oude. Although much reduced from its size and wealth while a province of the Great Mogul Empire, and ruled by the Nawab Vizier, the kingdom of Oude, as arranged after the Nepaulese war, still remained an important territory. Its population was nearly five millions, being more than any of the German States in Europe except Prussia and Austria, and in extent greater than Holland and Belgium, or than Switzerland, Saxony, and Württemberg put together. It was equal to one of the second-rate powers of Europe, such as Naples or Bavaria, though in Asia it is reckoned of no great account. The revenue of the State was about two millions sterling, besides irregular exactions of unknown and unreported amount. Nussir-u-deen was a prince naturally of some ability and good disposition, but brutalized by dissipation and crime. Strange tales are current in the East about the court of Lucknow under

his reign. Some of these doings were always matter of public notoriety, but in the present volume some notices of the inner life of the palace and court are given by one who was behind the scenes. The king, it is well known, had a great fondness for Europeans provided they were not in the Company's service; and at the period to which this narrative belongs, the European part of the royal household was composed of the following members, including the author of the narrative:—

"One was nominally the king's tutor, employed to teach him English; his librarian was another; his portrait-painter was a third; the captain of his body-guard was a fourth; and last, but by no means least, his barber—his European barber—was a fifth. Of these five I was one.

"The barber was the greatest man of the five. His influence was far greater than the native prime minister, or Nawab. He was known to be an especial favourite, and all men paid court to him. His history, truly and honestly written, would form one of the oddest chapters of human life. All that I knew of him was this:—

"He had come out to Calcutta as cabin-boy in a ship. Having been brought up as a hairdresser in London, he had left his ship, on arriving in Calcutta, to resume his old business. He was successful; he pushed and puffed himself into notoriety. At length he took to going up the river with European merchandize for sale; he became, in fact, what is called there a river-trader. Arrived at Lucknow, he found a resident—not the same who was there when I entered the king's service—anxious to have his naturally lank hair curled like the governor-general's. The governor-general was distinguished by his ringlets; and the governor-general is, of course, 'the glass of fashion and the mould of form' in India. The resident would be like him; and the river-trader was not above resuming his old business. Marvellous was the alteration he made in the resident's appearance; and so the great saheb himself introduced the wonder-working barber to the king. That resident is in England now, and writes M.P. after his name.

"The king had peculiarly lank, straight hair; not the most innocent approach to a curl had ever been seen on it. The barber wrought wonders again, and the king was delighted. Honours and wealth were showered upon the lucky *coiffeur*. He was given a title of nobility. *Sofraz Khan* ('the illustrious chief') was his new name, and men bowed to him in Oude. The whilom cabin-boy was a man of power now, and wealth was rapidly flowing in upon him. The king's favourite soon becomes wealthy in a native state. The barber, however, had other sources of profit open to him besides bribery; he supplied all the wine and beer used at the king's table. Every European article required at court came through his hands, and the rupees accumulated in thousands. 'What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour?' is a question as apt now in every oriental court as it was when the Jewish queen recorded it.

"Nussir put no bounds to the honours he heaped upon the fascinating barber; unlimited confidence was placed in him. By small degrees he had at last become a regular guest at the royal table, and sat down to take dinner with the king as a thing of right; nor would his majesty taste a bottle of wine opened by any other hands than the barber's. So afraid was his majesty of being poisoned by his own family, that every bottle of wine was sealed in the barber's house before being brought to the king's table; and before he opened it, the little man looked carefully at the seal to see that it was all right. He then opened it and took a portion of a glass first, before filling one for the king. Such was the etiquette at the royal table, when I first took my place at it.

"The confidence reposed in the favourite was, of course, soon generally known over India, or at all events in Bengal. The 'low menial,' as the

'Calcutta Review' called him, was the subject of squibs, and pasquinades, and attacks, and satirical verses without number; and marvellously little did the low menial care what they said of him, as long as he accumulated rupees. They had the wit and the satire, and he had the money; so far he was content."

Much of the narrative relates to scenes and events in which the lucky barber bore a prominent part. The author does not, however, give the correct account of the end of the public life of the favourite, as we have heard it. He says that the energetic remonstrances of the British Resident at length forced the king to part with his favourite, who left Lucknow, it is said, with 240,000*l*. It is true that the Resident, Colonel, now General Low, a high-minded soldier and gentleman, protested against the influence of the menials at the court; but the exit of the barber was after a fashion less honourable even than a direct dismissal. He felt it was high time to be off, and having previously secured his accumulated gains, he undertook for the king a commission to make some purchases at Calcutta. Transferring the orders to merchants, who might execute them or not, he took ship for England, thus making his escape from a position which he would probably have found difficult in obtaining formal permission to leave. This at least is the story as told in Calcutta, and it is quite in keeping with the character of the man. If he is still alive, he is doubtless held in the high estimation which wealth, however acquired, always secures in English society. The captain of the body-guard and the author of this narrative had previously quitted his majesty's service in disgust, but not till the latter had spent three years and a half in the court of Lucknow, of the chief events of which his book contains a journal. The details are often of a very revolting kind in so far as they relate to the character and proceedings of the king; but there are also notices of more value, concerning the condition and the customs of the country and its people. We quote part of the description of the vast royal palace on the banks of the Goomty, and of the general aspect of the city of Lucknow:—

"The great extent of the buildings, generally called the king's palace, surprised me in the first place. It was not properly a palace, but a continuation of palaces stretching all along the banks of the Goomty, the river on which Lucknow is built. In this, however, the royal residence in Oude but resembled what one reads of the seraglio at Constantinople, the Khan's residence at Teheran, and the imperial buildings of Peking. In all oriental states the palaces are not so much the abode of the sovereign only, as the centre of the government;—little towns, in fact, containing extensive lines of buildings occupied by the harem and its vast number of attendants, containing courts, gardens, tanks, fountains, and squares, as well as the offices of the chief ministers of state. Such was the case in Lucknow. One side of the narrow Goomty—a river not much broader than a middling-sized London street—was lined by the royal palace; the other was occupied by the *rumna*, or park, in which the menagerie was maintained. The extent of this collection of animals, and its variety, exceeded anything that I had supposed possible. Elephants in scores, tigers, rhinoceroses, antelopes, cheetahs or hunting-leopards, lynxes, Persian cats, Chinese dogs, might all be seen sunning themselves in this park, either in their cages, or stretched listlessly on the grass, as commonly as sheep and cows in an English meadow.

"There was nothing grand or striking about the exterior of the palace—the Fureed Buksh, as it is called. Its extent was the only imposing feature

about it, and struck me far more forcibly than any magnificence of architecture or loftiness of structure would have done; for I was prepared for the latter, whilst for the former feature I was not prepared.

"Nor did the streets of Lucknow disappoint me. The streets around the palace have been compared to Dresden by Bishop Heber; others have declared that Lucknow resembled Moscow. I have never been in either city; but I should fancy they cannot be very like each other. The only large city, that I have been in, which resembles the lower part of the town, in its narrow streets, its laden camels, and its bazaars, is Grand Cairo in Egypt. Dresden, Moscow, Cairo—there is room enough here for choice; and yet in all these no counterparts will be found to many of the most striking characteristics of Lucknow.

"In the first place, with respect to the armed population, we shall find nothing similar in any of these places. The people of Moscow may wear knives about their persons, and in Cairo you may occasionally see men with arms in their hands; but in Lucknow every man goes armed. With matchlock or gun or pistol most probably, with a short bent sword called a *tulwar* and a shield certainly, you find every man in Lucknow pass you by. Even those engaged in the ordinary business of life have their *tulwars*; whilst the idlers have both pistols and shield as well, however otherwise mean their attire. The shield of buffalo-hide, with brass knobs for the most part, is usually thrown up upon the left shoulder; and with the fierce-looking moustaches of the Rajpoots and Patans, and the black beards of the Mussulmans, *tulwar* and shield together give an eminently warlike air to the swaggering figures of the self-sufficient citizens. Nor is it wonderful that the population of Lucknow should be warlike in its aspect; for Oude is the great nursery of soldiers for the Company's army. The forces of the Bengal presidency come almost exclusively from Oude.

"The love of arms is fostered from infancy in the inhabitants of Lucknow. An arrow or a spear is the usual plaything of the boys there; small wooden models of *tulwars* and pistols are put into the hands of the babies, just as English nurses give their children rattles to play with.

"The streets of the town presented therefore an eminently novel aspect to me. It was as if I had found myself transported suddenly into some of the scenes of which I had read in childish histories and novels, in which all the men are heroes, and show their heroism in their gait and manners.

"Nor in Cairo or Moscow would you find elephants used as the ordinary beasts of burden. Nothing can be more ludicrous than the incongruity between the huge animals and the narrow confined streets in which they have to travel. One of them blocks up the entire road; just as the laden camel, with his huge net at either side, full of goods, does in Cairo. In Lucknow elephants and camels are almost equally common. In the lower and filthier parts of the town, where the bazaars abound, horses are seldom seen, elephants and camels are the common labourers. For a long time I could not see an elephant or a laden camel sweeping down one of these narrow lanes without feeling an almost irresistible inclination to laugh aloud, even when I was endangering my own safety by remaining exposed too long.

"Then there is the contrast, too, between the Hindoo and the Mussulman population, resembling each other only in the arms which they carry—in every other respect unlike. Lucknow is a city of about 300,000 inhabitants, of whom two-thirds are probably Hindoos, generally of the lower orders; the Mussulman population is somewhat aristocratic, for the court is Mussulman."

We must refer those of our readers who like such scenes, to the detailed accounts given in this volume of the fights of wild beasts, and other brutal sports, which formed a chief portion of the pastimes of the royal court of Oude, from the table fights of quails and partridges, to the more imposing battles of tigers, elephants, rhinoceroses, and other for-

midable combatants. The adventures of a wonderful stallion, which remained victor over tigers, buffaloes, and all other adversaries, form one of the most extraordinary portions of this part of the book. But such scenes, though exciting to witness, and not without interest in their narration, leave a painful and humiliating impression on the reader. We may readily suppose that the people of a country so governed are in a miserable condition. Instead of adducing any of the formal statements to this effect, we quote a passage incidentally occurring in an account of a hunting expedition:—

"The encampment was broken up, and we journeyed northwards in order to gain a part of the country where the wild boar and hog were to be met with. Considering the extent of the attendance upon the king, it may be readily conceived that our progress was far indeed from being a rapid one. The trained stags, used as decoys, were brought with us; the hawks, for we were to have hawking too; the cheetahs, a species of leopard trained to hunt the deer,—these came in waggons, with their keepers and attendants. There was the king's harem, of course, containing his six wives, his numerous concubines, and the dancing and singing girls, their servants and their attendant female sepoys, forming a little army of covered conveyances in themselves; there was the body-guard, in its flaunting livery of blue and silver; there were elephants bearing tents and baggage; camels, some for riding, used chiefly by messengers, and some employed as beasts of burden; together with horses in abundance. When to all this is added our train, consisting of elephants, horses, and palanquins, it may be easily conceived that our advance was more like the march of an Indian army than the progress of a simple hunting-party. The villagers living along the route by which we journeyed were thrown into consternation by our appearance. The king and his retinue had never made their way into this part of the country before; and the march of an Eastern sovereign through his dominions is a sad thing for the people. The king's servants regard themselves as a privileged race. They have a right, they think, to the best of everything, and to as much of it as they please; so that the plundering and maltreating of the unfortunate inhabitants went on upon all sides. Besides this, was any difficulty to be surmounted, any impassable road to be made practicable, or a new road to be made where road there never had been before, the villagers far and near were turned out to do it,—men and women and children all turned out to work as long as the nawab liked, their only pay the abuse and punishment they received if the work were not done as speedily as the nawab wished. People in England may possibly think such a state of things impossible; people in India who have visited the territories of any native prince must be aware that it is literally true."

The sooner Oude is "annexed" the better for all parties concerned in the change. The reigning king is not a brute like Nussir-udeen, but his finances are perplexed, and his country is miserably misgoverned. 'Company's law,' even in its worst form of administration, is infinitely preferable to the summary justice or injustice of the native chieftains. Matters are very much the same in Oude in 1855 as in 1835, to which period this narrative belongs. The book gives a true and striking picture of an Indian State under a native prince. Let the reader contrast with it the report of the administration of the Punjab under the Company's government, and he will be satisfied that the immediate annexation of Oude would be a blessing to its numerous inhabitants as well as a benefit to its present nominal rulers.



*The Dead Sea, a New Route to India, with other Fragments and Gleanings in the East.* By Capt. William Allen, R.N., F.R.S. Longman and Co.

To establish a ship communication between the Mediterranean and the Indian Seas has been a favourite project in ancient and modern times. It has lately been revived, and the Egyptian government has given permission to a French company to undertake a cutting through the Isthmus of Suez. A canal from the Nile to the Red Sea was begun by the Pharaohs, some say by Sesostrius, in the middle of the nineteenth century before the Christian era. The work was carried on by Psammetichus (B.C. 660), or by his son Necho (B.C. 610), and Herodotus records that it was continued by Darius, son of Hystaspes, successor of Cambyses, the conqueror of Egypt (B.C. 510). Ptolemy Philadelphus (B.C. 260) completed it, and Strabo reports its being open in his day, shortly before the Christian era. It seems to have been used down to the time of the Caliphs of Egypt, in the eighth century; but gradually the navigation was obstructed, either by the accumulated deposits of the Nile, or by the gradual upheaving of the land in the northern part of the Gulf of Suez and the Bitter Lakes. Whatever may be the result of the new attempt now about to be made, with the superior appliances of modern engineering, the importance of rapid and sure communication between Europe and the East gives importance to other projects than that of an Egyptian canal. England especially is deeply interested in this matter, for we must not count on the present relations of the Great Powers of the West being permanent, and we cannot allow the direct communication with India to depend on political circumstances by which the transit through Egypt might be interrupted. On this ground, as well as on the alleged facility and advantage of his project, Captain Allen claims attention to another route, from Kaiffa on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean, through the valleys of Palestine, in the course of the Dead Sea, to the Gulf of Akabah. In contrasting his project with that of a canal by the Isthmus of Suez, Captain Allen restricts himself to the physical features of the two lines. His strong objection to the canal of the isthmus is the shallowness of the sea at either end, while the other line would have the advantage of deep water at both entrances:—

"A fatal obstacle to the canal of the isthmus, is the shallowness of the sea at either end. So that at Tineh it would require to be dug, and protected by jetties very nearly as far from the shore as five miles, in order to reach a depth of about five fathoms; which depth would be necessary for the navigation of ships of all classes. In addition to which, it would not be safe, in such an exposed situation as the Bay of Tineh, to be without a harbour of refuge or a breakwater across the narrow entrance of a canal such as was proposed, with long straight jetties. Whereas, on the other line, the five-fathom line is only 600 yards from the bottom of the Bay of Acre, and is sheltered from south-west winds by the promontory of Carmel. At the south end, four, five, and six fathoms are found at less than half a mile from the head of the Gulf of Akabah; and, at less than two miles, there are no soundings with ninety fathoms. Although the winds are strong in the gulf, they most frequently blow down it; so that access to the entrance of the canal would not be dangerous at this end. It is very probable that the cause of these sudden and violent winds lies in the depression of the Ghors; and if they were filled to the level of the gulf, it

would be removed, and the Ælantic might become a calm sea.

"It was navigated in ancient times, as by Solomon. In the middle ages also, as the citadel of Ailah on a little island was besieged by ships unsuccessfully, in 1182, by Rainald of Chatillon.

"In the Île de Graie, near the head of the Gulf of Akabah, M. Laborde shows on the plan a deep piece of water, about 250 feet in length and 58 in breadth, into which the sea enters in bad weather. By cutting a channel into it, this might be made use of as a small harbour. It was formerly occupied, as he shows many ruins; among others, the walls of a palace, or probably acropolis; and many of the buildings in tolerable preservation. He does not give the depth of the water, but says, 'Lorsque l'île servait de port de construction, cette plage devait offrir un chantier excellent.' Dr. Milman enumerates five commercial lines of communication with the richest parts of the then known world, which centred in Palestine during the reign of Solomon. Of these the most important branch was the maritime trade by the Red Sea, through the Gulf of Akabah, where Solomon built or improved the towns and ports of Elath and Ezion-geber."

Another important advantage in the Dead Sea route would be the strength of the current that would flow through it, by which obstructions would be prevented from accumulating; whereas the Egyptian canal would have too little motion to keep the channel free of drift and sand. It was formerly supposed that there was a great difference of level between the Red Sea and the Mediterranean, but recent surveys have shown that this is not the case:—

"While our own celebrated Robert Stephenson and Signor Negrelli surveyed the shores of the two seas, M. Bourdaloue, with a staff of engineers, took levels along the Wady Tournilat, through which the ancient canal passed, and between the points nearest in a straight line across the isthmus, viz. at Suez and at Tineh. M. Bourdaloue found that the mean level of the Red Sea is at the utmost only eighty centimètres, or a little more than two and a half feet (2.625 ft.), higher than the Mediterranean. This is so small a quantity, in a distance of more than seventy miles, that it may be considered as destroying at once the principal facility on which Linant calculated; namely, that such a fall as thirty feet would have created a current strong enough to have kept the canal free from sand, &c.; but there would be no current.

"Now, with respect to the comparative advantages or difficulties between the two lines: that by the Dead Sea has an undoubted fall of 1300 feet, or more than forty times that which M. Linant—not being aware at that time of the equality of the levels—erroneously calculated on. Thus, a communication once established between the two seas and the Dead Sea, the current would carry off all the earth (previously loosened by blasting), whereas, the canal of the isthmus would have to be wholly dug out and carried away, a process involving an enormous increase of expense and labour; while the increased surface of the Dead Sea would evaporate so much water, that a constant current would flow in from either end as compensation, and would be sufficient to keep the canals clear."

We must refer to Captain Allen's book, with its accompanying plans and map, for the detailed description of his proposed route. There is certainly much plausibility in the plan of using the great depression in Syria, of which the Dead Sea forms one portion, and which is bordered on either side by mountain ranges several thousand feet above the level of the ocean.

"Those on the west are continuous from Mount Hermon through the Belka and Shera ranges, to the shores of the Red Sea. On the west, commencing also by a spur from the same Mount Hermon or Antilibanon, there are the mountains of Gilboa, those of Judea, and the highland of the

Desert of Tyh. This wall of mountains reaches also to the shores of the Gulf of Akabah and the Red Sea, by the Sinaia range. In this whole extent there is but one break, which is found between the Lesser Hermon and Mount Gilboa; namely, the celebrated plain of Esdrælon. In crossing this I ascertained, approximately, its elevation above the level of the Mediterranean to be only about 120 feet by the aneroid barometer.

"The swelling of this plain is so slight and gradual, that it is difficult to ascertain the precise spot of the summit level; but it cannot be far from Zerim, the ancient Jezreel, between the fork of the affluents of the River Kishon; which have their rise in the neighbourhood of Mount Tabor in the north-east, and the mountains of Gilboa in the south-east; they unite in the middle of the plain, and flow as the Brook Kishon, 'that ancient river' to the north-west, between a shoulder of Mount Carmel and a spur of the Nazareth range, entering the sea by a little estuary in the most sheltered part of the bay of Acre, or Akka."

We shall allow Captain Allen to narrate in his own words how the project suggested itself to his mind, and to describe some of the advantages to be derived from it:—

"When I had come to the conclusion that there is strong probability that the southern extremity of the great depression is very little removed in distance from the head of the Gulf of Akabah, and, moreover, that there is ground for believing that this small intervening tract may have very little elevation above the level of the Red Sea, I was struck with the extraordinary coincidence, that the part of the depression, nearest to the Mediterranean Sea, has the only break in the long mountain wall, and is occupied by the low level of the plain of Esdrælon. It immediately flashed across my mind that Providence has here almost furnished industrious nations, at a time when growing intercourse is seeking for improved channels of communication, with the means of constructing a noble canal between the two seas, which contain the storehouses of the elements of produce and skill which it is so desirable should be brought nearer together.

"Nature has, in fact, performed for us the greater part of the work in a stupendous cutting of some 200 miles in length, and separated from a sea at either end by a barrier apparently slight at the north; namely, the alluvial plain of Esdrælon, already deeply furrowed by the Brook Kishon, which might be cut through at very little expense; the required length of the cutting being about twenty-five miles only.

"At the other end, if the hypothesis of the 'dried-up strait' should prove to be correct, the distance for the required canal would not be greater, and the depth of the cutting may be small. This, however, is mere conjecture, founded on the arguments in the preceding pages. The truth can only be ascertained by a careful survey of the localities.

"If they should be found practicable, the operation might be very much facilitated by making use of the immense weight and force of back-water of the two oceans; if not as a cutting power, at all events to carry into the abyss or depression, the earth, &c., which could be loosened by the liberal use of gunpowder, saving thereby nearly the whole trouble of digging and carrying away.

"Communication being thus established by canals sufficiently broad and deep, the rushing in of the two seas would restore the *now* Dead Sea to its ancient level, and convert it into the active channel of intercourse between Europe and Asia; the whole bulky commerce of which might then pass through this canal instead of taking the circuitous route of the Cape of Good Hope, shortening the voyage between England and India to the time in which it is performed by the overland route. The canal route is indeed a little longer; but they would be equalised by the time taken by the transit through Egypt.

"The execution of a project so vast could not of course be carried out without some sacrifices; but these will be trifling when compared with the mag-

nitude of the advantages to be derived in exchange. For instance, a large portion, some 2000 square miles, of the territories belonging to our faithful and gallant ally, His Highness the Sultan, will be submerged; together with a city of perhaps some thousands of inhabitants, and some Arab villages. But the territory is useless, being for the most part incapable of cultivation, especially the southern Ghor, or Wady Arabah. The northern Ghor, or valley of the Jordan, has some fertility, of which but little advantage is taken by the wandering tribes of Arabs, who capriciously cultivate small portions of it here and there. The city of Tiberias is a filthy heap of ruined buildings, hemmed in between the lake and steep barren mountains, from which a forced removal to a fertile and adjacent neighbourhood would be a blessing to the debased, apathetic, and wretched inhabitants. The villages consist of mud-huts, temporary by their nature, or of tents, which are intentionally so. From all these the occupants derive little advantage, and His Highness less revenue. Their condition, besides, might be immensely improved by the activity and trade which would be stimulated through the navigation of the canal by ships of all nations; and the Sultan would draw great revenues by transit dues where he now receives nothing; and as remuneration for the loss of this unprofitable territory, some of the finest countries of the world, the early seats of population—namely, those of the Rephaim, the Zuzim, and the Emim, the trans-Jordanic provinces, so judiciously chosen by some tribes of the Jews—would be rendered easy of access by means of the proposed canal.

"I think a strong case has been made out of profit for His Highness the Sultan; and in addition to these advantages to be derived by the opening of communication by the proposed ship-canal, are the facilities it would afford his subjects in making their pilgrimage to Mekka. The Syrian Hadj, which collects all the pilgrims of the East, and has its rendezvous at Damascus, might embark at some port nearest to it, on the new gulf; whence they could be conveyed in steamers, fitted for the purpose, to their destination, instead of having a toilsome and dangerous march of six weeks through an inhospitable desert. They would be brought back in the same way. The only thing to be advanced against this method of performing a pilgrimage would be, that, by depriving it of hardship and romance, all the merit is also abstracted; so that the practice itself may fall into desuetude, which indeed has, I believe, already commenced. This is not to be regretted; inasmuch as, like every other improvement in the facilities of intercourse, it will be a death-blow to fanaticism.

"In like manner a steamer might ply between Jerusalem and the head of the new gulf, for the benefit of Christian pilgrims; who would then be able to bathe in the pure waters of the Jordan near their source at the foot of Mount Hermon; not contaminated, as it now is, by the reception of the Hieromax, Jabbok, and other small torrents, washing down the sides of the mountain ranges bordering the Ghor.

"By the accounts of all travellers the beautiful region here spoken of east of Jordan has lost none of its fertility, though there are none to take advantage of it except the nomad tribes, who wander among its rich pastures. The proposed canal would give easy access to it; and the permission and blessing of Almighty God being vouchsafed, it may become the means of enabling thousands upon thousands to enjoy the good things which He so beneficently and abundantly provides. Without such sanction, it is manifest that this and no other project can prosper; affecting, as it will do, lands and conditions about which He has deigned to express His will. But when the end is such as to promote the good of our fellow-creatures, and to spread, if possible, the knowledge of His Holy Word, it may well justify the attempt. The result is in His hands."

Captain Allen has brought his plan before the British Association and the Royal Geographical Society; and he informs his readers

that he offered to go in the winter of 1853-54 to survey the district, if Her Majesty's Government would grant the assistance of an engineer officer. Captain Collinson, R.E., offered his services, provided the Government would pay his bare expenses; but we regret to add that the Lords of the Treasury, though appreciating the motives of the application, "did not feel justified in acceding to the request;" a piece of paltry economy contrasting unfavourably with the liberality of the United States' Government, who had sent an expedition at great expense to survey the Jordan, without any ulterior object.

In another part of his work Captain Allen gives an account of his travels and observations in some parts of Asia Minor, and of these the notice of the region of the river Orontes is the most interesting, as this also has been much recommended of late years as a new route to India. After confirming the reports of General Chesney, and other travellers and surveyors, as to the excellency of the site of Seleucia as a great port, and the facility of its restoration, Captain Allen thus refers to the advantages of re-opening this ancient route to the interior of Asia:—

"It may be asked why I propose to construct, or rather to reconstruct, a harbour on a coast where not only there is no commerce, but where there is even a very small population, in scattered and poor villages. Although this is but too true, the original and natural elements of prosperity, which in former times required such an outlet, still remain in the inexhaustible fertility of this wonderful country. This may be said to comprise, not only the neighbouring rich valleys of the Orontes and Bekaa, to which the cities of the Tetrapolis and many others owed their origin and rapid prosperity; but it was the channel through which flowed the riches of Mesopotamia, which gave birth to a Nineveh and a Babylon; and even the wealth of Persia and the furthest east have had, and still may find, an emporium in Seleucia. The great fertility of Mesopotamia was carried to its utmost limit, by means of the numerous canals for irrigation, with which the country was everywhere intersected; some of the largest of these were navigable. They excited the wonder and interest of Alexander the Great, who examined them personally, and 'steered the boat himself.' He employed a great number of men to cleanse and repair them. 'Of all the countries I know,' says Herodotus, 'it is without question the best and the most fertile. It produces neither figs, nor vines, nor olives; but in recompense the earth is suitable for all sorts of grain; of which it yields always 200 per cent., and in years of extraordinary fertility, as much as 300 per cent.'

"The commerce of the rich countries I have alluded to has, indeed, never ceased; for though almost annihilated by the discovery of the Cape of Good Hope, which enabled the energies of a maritime nation to divert the greater part to that route, some portion still flows languidly by a perverted course and an inferior outlet; owing to the neglect of this, its natural channel and emporium. Thus the present trade of the East, centering in Aleppo, is carried on by means of camels and mules over the mountain pass of Beilan, the Syrian gates, and embarked at the unhealthy and inconvenient Port of Skanderun, at the head of the gulf of the same name.

"The produce of the great basin of the Euphrates and the Tigris, including Persia and the nations on the southern slopes of the Taurus and Caucasus, demands an outlet. The natural one is of course the Persian Gulf; but the stream of commerce does not set that way, the demand being in the west. Providence has given the means, which were fully profited by in former times. The greater development of the present day does not find the ocean route sufficient, and the time may come when its increasing exigencies may stretch its iron tentacles

even across Mesopotamia. These are visions of the future; which, however, daily experience proves is nearer to the present than any one dares to imagine. Leaving these to be unfolded by time, the present facilities are amply sufficient for the present resources.

"The country possesses in itself locomotive power to an enormous amount, which is produced and wasted, waiting century after century for employment. I mean in the thousands and thousands of camels,—ships of the desert,—that only live to crop the luxuriant herbage of the wide countries of which they might convey the more valuable productions; by a sluggish current it is true, but sufficient in amount, to fill more and greater marts and ports than Seleucia, and to call forth the swiftest energies of steam to carry off its slow but steady influx. In addition to all this, by the employment of their camels, the wandering Arab tribes would be reclaimed to civilization and religion."

While writing this, we are grieved to observe the announcement of the death of Dr. James Rowen Thomson, a medical officer of enterprising spirit as well as professional ability, who has explored these regions, and strenuously advocated the re-opening of the route by the Orontes. This project we think on the whole more feasible, and likely to be attended with greater and more immediate results than Captain Allen's favourite scheme of the Dead Sea route. Both of them are objects of high importance, and the execution of either would have immense effect on the future prosperity of the British empire, as well as the progress of civilization in the East. Although we have confined our remarks on Captain Allen's work to the portions relating to these projects, as having direct bearing on passing events, we must not omit to say that his fragments and gleanings on other topics are instructive as well as entertaining, and that his book is an acceptable addition to our library of Eastern travel. Both volumes are copiously illustrated by engravings from sketches by the author. An appendix contains various documents, and quotations from ancient and modern writers, illustrative of the statements and opinions of the work.

#### NOTICES.

*A Few more Words on the Plurality of Worlds.* By W. S. Jacob, Astronomer to the H.E.I. Company. Bell and Daldy.

IN this tract Mr. Jacob gives a lucid and comprehensive summary of the recent discussion which has arisen on the subject of the plurality of worlds. The astronomical facts and arguments are stated with much clearness and force, and some points are adverted to, which had been omitted or misrepresented by previous writers. On the whole the author's feeling is in favour of the view taken by Sir David Brewster, and other opponents of the anonymous essayist, whose able treatise gave occasion to the controversy. But Mr. Jacob is too rigidly scientific a man to give utterance to the rash statements of many of the asserters of a plurality of worlds. After reviewing the whole of the evidence from physical data, he gives his opinion in this cautious manner:—"The conclusion arrived at is, that while the arguments of Z. (the Essayist,) even with all the deductions due to the errors which have been pointed out, are still valid against the view that any other part of the universe, besides our earth, *must* necessarily be inhabited, they do not furnish any sufficient ground for maintaining, or considering as probable, that ours is the only spot in the universe containing intelligent inhabitants." And again:—"It is certainly possible (*i.e.* the contrary cannot be proved) that our Earth *may* be the only body brought to the degree of perfection in which we see it,—the only one as yet inhabited by intelligent creatures



capable of knowing their Creator, or even the only one inhabited at all; but it is in the highest degree improbable that such should be the actual state of things. In brief then, it is probable that some of the known planets are inhabited; not very improbable that all of them are so; perhaps as likely as not, that one or more of them may have intelligent inhabitants. It is *highly* probable that *some*, not very unlikely that *all*, the stars are bodies closely resembling the Sun; probable that some, if not all, are attended by planetary bodies, and that some of these are inhabited: but we have no evidence for pronouncing with certainty on any of these points. These are the conclusions warranted by the present state of our knowledge, any addition to which might possibly modify them." These are conclusions in which it may truly be said that nothing is concluded. The arguments only reach a low degree of probability, and possibility is the more correct term to apply to them, in the actual state of our knowledge. Mr. Jacob also admits that the Essay ascribed to Professor Whewell has had a most valuable tendency in the direction of correcting popular errors, and checking philosophical, or rather unphilosophical speculation. "It is certain," he says, "that many who should know better are in the habit of speaking far too decisively, and in terms unwarranted by evidence, of the inhabitants of the worlds around us, as if they possessed undoubted proofs of their existence; and had Z. contented himself with refuting this error, by fairly weighing the question in the scales of probability, he would have done good service to the cause of truth; but in going to the other extreme, and maintaining that our Earth is most probably the only inhabited spot, and that the rest of the universe is a barren desert, it appears to me that he has overshot his mark, and is equally unsupported by evidence." This is the true and philosophical view to take of the whole controversy, which has received so much attention from the scientific world.

*The Ecclesiastical and Architectural Topography of England.* Part VII. *Suffolk.* J. H. and J. Parker.

THE seventh part of this work, published under the sanction of the Archaeological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, is devoted to the county of Suffolk. The architectural notes on the churches and other medieval buildings are given with great fulness, the larger portion of them being obtained from surveys taken recently for the purpose by Mr. Caveler, to whose valuable aid the previous parts of the work were much indebted. In particular districts other archaeologists contributed information, and the survey of part of the county was made by Mr. J. M. Rickman, architect. Mr. Caveler, in some introductory remarks, mentions the peculiarities of church architecture in the eastern counties, especially the use of flint with stone in what may be termed 'flush-work'; the flint forming the panel, the stone being on the same face, without any moulded work, and not even raised from the surface, but forming the margin or division between the panels. "The beauty," adds Mr. Caveler, "and almost endless variety of this work is amazing." Saxon work is supposed to be found in four or five places; Norman is rare, the best specimen being the Abbey Gateway at Bury; there is comparatively little early English or decorated; and the great mass is perpendicular, and most of it late in style. The woodwork in the Suffolk churches is said to be of unusual variety and excellence of ornament. Numerous engravings illustrate the volume. A list of books relating to Suffolk, including references to papers in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, is a very acceptable appendix to the work.

*Martha: a Sketch from Life.* By Anthony Smith the Elder. Hope and Co.

In this tale, apparently the first attempt of the writer, there is shown considerable shrewdness of observation and skill in the delineation of character. The matter, however, is unpleasant, being the story of a young lady, the daughter of a clergyman, whose head having been turned by novel

reading, falls in love with and marries a handsome peasant, whom she was accustomed to see in her father's church. Such a step meets its natural reward. The husband, without any respect for the woman who has lowered herself for his sake, becomes idle, dissipated, cruel, and at last is led to join in robbing the house of his wife's father. We cannot follow the story through all its sad details; if true, as the title asserts, they are very melancholy, but her clinging to her husband, then betraying, then forsaking him, do not influence the feelings in her favour, as such a man could inspire no higher sentiment than mere passion. The work shows that the author could write an excellent book with a better subject, and many passages, such as the death of Martha's father, the description of her cottage, and her describing her childish recollections to her children, are very touching, but there is too free a use of provincialisms, which would be better avoided in any future effort.

*Ballads: Romantic, Fantastical, and Humorous.*

By William Harrison Ainsworth. Illustrated by John Gilbert. Routledge and Co.

MR. AINSWORTH is a voluminous writer, both in prose and verse, too fluent in the latter to produce much worthy of more than passing notice. Among the ballads forming this illustrated volume there is abundant variety of subject, and occasional happiness of diction, but the majority of pieces do not rise above the level of scrap-book poetry, and "words" for music of the day. Some of the ballads are on the Custom of Dummow, which Mr. Ainsworth, by his story of the 'Flitch of Bacon,' and by other recent endeavours, has sought to revive. Of the humorous pieces, that entitled 'The Boots of Marlbrook' is the one worthiest of being reprinted, from the historical points which it takes up:—

"Four marshals of France vow'd their monarch to guard,  
Bragging Boufflers, vain Villars, Villeroi, and Tallard;  
These four gasconiers in jest undertook  
To pull off the boots of the mighty Marlbrook.  
"The field was first taken by Boufflers and Villars,  
But though they were the chaffers, yet we were the millers;  
Bonn, Limburgh, and Huy, soon our general took—  
'Twas not easy to pull off the boots of Marlbrook."

"Tallard next essayed with Bavaria's Elector,  
But the latter turn'd out an indifferent protector;  
For he Schellenberg lost, while at Blenheim both shook  
In their shoes, at the sight of the boots of Marlbrook."

"To Ranelieu next came the vaunting Villeroi,  
In his own esteem equal to Hector of Troy;  
But he found, like the rest, that his man he mistook—  
And fled at the sight of the boots of Marlbrook."

"Then here's to the boots, made of stout English leather,  
Well soled, and well heel'd, and right well put together!  
He deserves not the name of a Briton, who'd brook  
A word 'gainst the fame of the boots of Marlbrook!"

"Of Gallia the dread, and of Europe the wonder,  
These boots, like their master, will never knock under;  
We'll bequeath 'em our sons, and our sons' sons shall look  
With pride and delight on the boots of Marlbrook."

The illustrations, by Gilbert, form no small recommendation to the volume.

#### SUMMARY.

SOME very pleasing and instructive tales for young people appear under the title of *Parables from Nature*, by Mrs. Alfred Gatty (Bell and Daldy). Mrs. Gatty mentions that her ambition is to imitate Hans Andersen's tales in their charming sketches of nature, but to apply the stories to some profitable teaching, an object rarely attempted by the Swedish writer. Some of the parables of this little work are prettily told, and the lessons taught by them are plain and important. The book is dedicated to Dr. George Johnston, a friend of the author. Whether he lived to express an opinion of the work, or not, we are sure that his genial spirit must have approved of its design.

A pamphlet on *Photography, as applied to the Preservation of Pictorial Records and National Monuments of History and Art*, by the Rev. F. A. S. Marshall, M.A., Peterborough (Herring and Remington), points out the importance of the use of photography to such purposes, and describes the mode of operation practised by the writer during seven years' experience.

A very superior book for the use of schools is an

edition of *Milton's Paradise Lost*, with notes critical and explanatory, selected and original (B. Fellowes), by the Rev. J. R. Major, D.D., Head Master of King's College School, London. The notes are chiefly selected from Bishop Newton's Commentary, but brief remarks are added by Dr. Major, which render the book more suited for educational use.

The *Bampton Lectures* for 1855, preached before the University of Oxford, by the Rev. John Ernest Bode, M.A., Rector of Westwell (J. H. and J. Parker), consist of eight sermons, in which the lecturer maintains the somewhat paradoxical statement that "the absence of precision in the formularies of the Church of England is scriptural, and suitable to a state of probation."

A very good *Conversational Grammar of the French Language*, by Dr. L. Georg (Nutt), will facilitate the ready and correct use of the language in writing or in conversation.

The September number of *The Merchant's Magazine* (Richardson, Brothers) contains articles on Limited Liability, the Railway Reports of the year, and other subjects at present before the mercantile world.

The amateur local magazine, *The Bouquet from Marylebone Gardens* (Booth), continues to be conducted with cleverness and spirit.

A romantic little story of life, by John Baker Hopkins, author of 'The Yogi's Daughter' (Hall, Virtue, and Co.), is entitled *Elviré; a Reminiscence of Paris*.

For students of prophecy, a treatise on *The Abomination of Desolation come*, by a Cambridge M.A., a layman (Nisbet and Co.)

Martin Doyle, the well-known author of many agricultural treatises, has prepared for the use of schools *The Village Lesson-Book* (Groombridge and Sons), containing instructions on the most elementary occupations of the working classes, beginning with bird-keeping, pig-keeping, and cow-herding. It is a book that would thoroughly please the Dean of Hereford, Lord Ashburton, and other advocates for the diffusion of the knowledge of "common things."

The first number has appeared of a publication, to be continued in monthly parts, *Chambers's History of the Russian War* (W. and R. Chambers), illustrated with maps, plans, and wood-engravings. The narrative in this part is brought down to the siege of Silistria.

An American tale, *The Hidden Path*, by Marion Harland, is published in a cheap form in this country (S. Low, Son, and Co.) In the Parlour Library (Hodgson), No. 130 contains *Norman's Bridge*, a tale by the author of 'Emilia Wyndham.' In the Railway Library (Routledge and Co.), *The Old Commodore*, by the author of 'Rattlin the Reefer.' In another series of cheap amusing works (Ward and Lock), *Cross Purposes; or, the Way of the World*, by Margaret Casson.

Vol. IV. of the *Works of Edmund Burke* in Bohn's British Classics (H. G. Bohn), contains reports on administration of justice in India; and the papers and charge in the Warren Hastings trial.

In Bohn's Classical Library a volume contains *Cicero on Oratory and Orators*, with the Letters to Quintus and Brutus, translated and edited by J. S. Watson, completing this edition of the works of Cicero.

#### LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Alison's Europe, People's Edition, p. 8vo, cloth, Vol. 11, 4s.  
Annual Register, 1854, 8vo, boards, 18s.  
Archbold's (J. F.) Justice of the Peace, Vol. 4, 5th ed., 17s.  
Arthur's (T. S.) Ten Nights in a Bar Room, 12mo, cl., 1s.  
Autobiography of a Beggar-Boy, 12mo, boards, 3s.  
Barnes's (A.) Essays and Reviews, 2 vols., post 8vo, cl., 9s.  
Bell's English Poets; Butler, Vol. 2, 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.  
Byron's Works, 8vo, cloth, Vol. 1, 7s. 6d.  
Crofton (D.) on Genesis and Geology, 12mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.  
Gray's Elegy, illustrated, new edition, small 8vo, cloth, 7s. 6d.  
Harland's (M.) Hidden Path, 12mo, boards, 1s., cloth, 1s. 6d.  
(Low's), 2s.  
Hardy's (Lt. C.) Sporting Adventures, 2 vols, post 8vo, £1 1s.  
James's Comment. on the Morning and Even. Services, 10s. 6d.  
Kennard's (R. W.) Controversial Correspondence, 10s. 6d.  
London (The) Catalogue, 1831 to 1855, 8vo, cloth, £1 8s.  
Lynch's (H.) Red Brick House, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.  
Mayhew's (A.) Kitty Lamere, 12mo, boards, 1s. 6d.  
Quarles's (F.) Judgment and Mercy, post 8vo, cloth, 2s. 6d.

Robins's *Whole Evidence against the Romish Church*, 10s. 6d.  
 Roman Catholicism in Spain, crown 8vo, cloth, 4s.  
 Salvin and Broderick's *Falconry*, imperial 8vo, cloth, £1 1s.  
 Scott's *Metropolitan Local Management Act*, 12mo, cl., 4s.  
 Seventy Scripture Chants, fcap., cloth, 1s. 6d.  
 Simplicity and Fascination, 3 vols., post 8vo, cloth, £1 11s. 6d.  
 Strickland and Jardine's *Ornithological Synonyms*, 12s. 6d.  
 Taylor's (C. B.) *Truth*, 3rd ed., 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.  
 Taylor's (R.) *India, China, and Japan*, post 8vo, cloth, 7s. 6d.  
 Tomes's (R.) *Panama*, in 1855, 12mo, cloth, 4s. 6d.  
 Traveller's Library, No. 89, Railway Morals, &c., 1s.  
 — Vol. 43, cloth, 2s. 6d.  
 Tucker's (Miss) *Southern Cross*, 2nd ed., fcap., cloth, 3s. 6d.  
 Vincent's (G. G.) *Moral Nature Considered*, 12mo, cloth, 10s.  
 Warren's Works, Vol. 5, post 8vo, cloth, Miscellaneous, 6s.  
 Webster's English Dictionary, 16mo, cl., 2s. 6d., roan, 3s.  
 — condensed cr. 8vo, cloth, 5s.  
 — pocket edition, roan, 3s. 6d.  
 Welsford's (H.) *Lights and Shadows of Spiritual Life*, 6s.

## MOREDUN.

To the Editor of the 'Literary Gazette.'

Société des Archivistes de France,  
 Paris, le 13 Septembre, 1855.

MONSIEUR,—J'ai l'honneur de vous faire passer copie d'une lettre que j'ai adressée le 3 du présent mois à M. le Rédacteur du 'Sun,' en réponse à l'article de compte rendu de 'Moredun' paru dans ce journal le 27 Août dernier.

N'ayant pas reçu d'exemplaire du numéro qui devait contenir cette lettre, dont vous reconnaissez facilement l'importance, je suppose qu'elle n'a pas encore été insérée, et j'ai l'honneur de solliciter de votre bonté de vouloir bien lui donner place dans votre plus prochain numéro de la 'Gazette Littéraire,' ou elle sera parfaitement logée.

Veillez recevoir encore une fois mes remerciemens, Monsieur, pour la façon courtoise dont vous vous êtes comporté envers moi. J'en suis d'autant plus reconnaissant que vos confrères m'ont assailli d'injures à tour de rôle. Je me souviendrai à l'occasion de cette différence de procédés.

Agrez, Monsieur, l'expression de ma considération très distinguée, le Directeur Général,

E. DE SAINT-MAURICE CABANY.

"To the Editor of the 'Sun.'"

Société des Archivistes de France,  
 Paris, le 3 Septembre, 1855.

"Sir,—Through my publishers I have received and read the review of 'Moredun' in the 'Sun' of the 27th August.

"Standing in contrast as that article does—by the impartiality of its notice of the work, and by its politeness towards myself personally—contrasting as it does in these respects with all the other notices, save one, I have yet seen in the London reviews, before the *claqueurs* of the complete editions of Scott's works have ceased the clamour with which they wish to prevent the arguments I have adduced in the introduction from being heard, and even the mere story of 'Moredun' from being known, it deserves my warmest acknowledgment. I can only assure you, sir, and the editor of the 'Literary Gazette,' that when the time arrives for making the conduct of the English press in regard to 'Moredun' and its editor fully known to the *littérati* of France, the fair and honest course you have pursued will do much to redeem the critical press of London from the obloquy under which it now rests, in the estimation of those on this side of the Channel, who have seen with amazement the length to which vulgar insolence and the most flagrant violations of the ordinary rules of literary courtesy and criticism dare be carried, in a land claiming to set the example to France, and to all the world, in the purity of its public morality and in its dispensation of 'equal-handed justice' in all the relations and obligations of society. Suffice it, the day of reckoning *will* come; the law of England would give it even now, but I prefer that the slow but sure hand of time do for 'Moredun' what it did for 'Waverley'—show that the condemnation it received at the hands of its earliest critics was the highest of all possible testimony to its intrinsic merits; for the earliest notices of 'Waverley' and 'Guy Mannering,' as Mr. Lockhart testifies in the Memoirs of his father-in-law, were as harsh and unjust as have been those of 'Moredun,' and manifested the same inability to appreciate the

rich vein of Scottish acuteness and humour which pervades all the works emanating from the same source.

"In one respect, I have deeply regretted the temporary success which has attended the insensate cry against 'Moredun,' got up by a clique and by a portion of the press under its influence, inasmuch as it has delayed the arrangements with foreign publishers for its appearance in other languages, on the completion of which arrangements it was, and still is, my intention to place the original MSS., entire as they came into my hands, at the disposition of the Trustees of the British Museum. When those MSS. are thus open to general inspection in England, as they have been from the first in my bureau at Paris, it will be acknowledged by all who examine them, that if I have been imposed upon, those must have been equally duped, who, thirty years ago, received the original of 'Moredun' as a genuine production of the pen of the 'great unknown.'

"At the same time, in repeating my firm conviction that these MSS. were actually given by the author of 'Waverley' to William Spencer, and were the *dodge* intended to be practised by Sir Walter Scott in Paris—as he has recorded himself in his diary the evening before he left London for the French capital, (and to which, I think, Lockhart must afterwards have been privy by his suppression of the correspondence with Spencer)—I am free to confess that it is quite possible for me to have been mistaken regarding both the period at which 'Moredun' was written, and the extent to which Scott lent a hand in the composition of that most extraordinary romance. I am induced to modify my original belief on both those points, not merely in deference to opinions expressed to me in private by Englishmen of great literary experience and acquirements, but by the following letter which I received only a few days since, and which is the first which seems to throw any direct light on the real origin of the 'Tale of 1210.' It is in the following terms:—

"Cologne, 25 August, 1855.

"Sir,—Before leaving London on a Continental tour, I had the opportunity of reading 'Moredun,' which I had not in the country, and immediately addressed a letter to the editor of the 'Morning Post,' stating some circumstances of rather an interesting kind, which seemed to me to bear in some measure on its origin, if not on its authorship. I directed a friend in London to forward to me a copy of the paper in which my letter might appear; but as I have never received one, I conclude that the communication was not inserted. I think, however, I ought not to lose any time in putting you in possession of the facts therein stated—why withheld by the 'Post,' I do not comprehend.

"I had the pleasure of being acquainted with the late Mr. Morritt of Rokeby Park, Sir Walter Scott's great friend and correspondent. On one of the many visits I made on business to Rokeby Park, I found Sir Walter, then Mr. Scott, there, was introduced to him, and took lunch in company with him. The year I do not recollect, but it was after several of the Waverley Novels had appeared, for I had often previously spoken to Morritt about those works, and fancied, from his manner, that either he had a hand in them himself, or at least knew the author. Meeting the two together, one of whom was spoken of as the author, and the other I suspected of being so, I tried to lead the conversation to subjects bearing towards the fictions; and the manner in which both in concert drew me off the scent, went far to confirm my suspicions in regard to both.

"Some years afterwards, when Scott was compelled by his pecuniary position to avow himself as 'the Great Unknown,' Mr. Morritt recurred to our meeting at his house, and told me that the conversation at lunch had led to a scene in the evening which he had hoped might have produced something from Scott's pen, which, now that he was the avowed author of the Waverley Novels, he feared he would not so readily undertake.

"You had spoken of Marsden rocks,' he said,

'as a place that Scott ought to see, and which was well suited for purposes of poetry or romance. In the evening he was silent and thoughtful for some time, and at last gave utterance to his thoughts by saying that Mr. Murray of Simprim, whose property lay almost at the base of Dunsinane, had given him a fragment, or rather the commencement of a fiction, very well worked up as far as it went, founded on the abstraction or disappearance of the young heir to the Scottish throne in the thirteenth century. I thought,' he said, 'of taking him to Tantallon or Dunbar; it would not be a bad idea to bring him to Marsden.'

"I immediately went,' Mr. Morritt added, 'and brought forth some curious notes and sketches I had of places in Durham and Yorkshire. Scott looked over them, and said, with his ever-ready chuckle when a joke was about to come forth, These would do better for Willie Allan than for me—his pencil and Erskine's pen (I think it was) would make romance in jest topography in earnest, out of such materials. If you can trust them in my hands, I would like to show them to the three Willies.'

"Mr. Morritt told me more of what passed; but with the evidence so recently before us, and which you have so well exposed, of the danger of trusting to mere recollections thirty years old, I think it better to wait my return to England and to the county of Durham, when I shall examine my own memoranda, and try to get access to the papers of the late Mr. Adamson, Secretary to the Literary Society of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and sometime sheriff of that ancient town, who was a man of infinite humour, as well as a profound scholar, and who I suspect had a deeper hand in this literary *jeu d'esprit*, as well as in many others, than his contemporaries thought of at that time. No one who was present at the opening of the railway between Newcastle and Hexham can have forgotten his look, when asked if he had no verses ready for such an occasion; he rose, and with a face of the utmost gravity demanded of the company how anyone could have thought of composing poetry for an occasion on which there were to be upwards of five hundred *Hexham-eaters* present! It will have been observed that the amusing letter of J. C. Clericus V., with which 'Moredun' concludes, is a letter of initials as well as that of W. S. to W. S.; and this circumstance, combined with the genuine tone of good-humoured railleury pervading the tale, impresses me with the conviction that you, sir, in giving publicity to that romance, have presented the world with a much greater literary curiosity than any mere juvenile essay, as you have supposed it to be, of the unaided pen of the author of 'Waverley.' We shall find a key to it, I expect, in the direction I have indicated; and if I am right in my conjectures, we shall at the same time see good reason for Lockhart having suppressed Sir Walter's correspondence with Spencer.

"I inclosed my card, in confidence, to the editor of the 'Morning Post,' but viewing the general incredulity and discourtesy shown on the subject of 'Moredun,' I think it better to withhold my name from the public until I shall have instituted the proposed inquiries. I need scarcely add, that I shall feel well recompensed for the trouble, if I am successful in throwing any light on the origin of, certainly, the most amusing and the cleverest work of fiction which our age has produced. I am, sir, your obedient servant,

"E . . . . ."

"M. Saint-Maurice Cabany, Paris."

"With such a deeply interesting letter before me, I may be well content not only to modify the opinion I had formed with regard to the period at which 'Moredun' was written, but to wait the promised communication ere sending the original MS. as I propose to the British Museum.

"I am, sir, very respectfully yours,

"Le Directeur Général,

"E. DE ST.-MAURICE CABANY."



## TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

WHILE England is about to celebrate the successes of the Allied armies in a day of National Thanksgiving, as has already been done in France, the tidings of the fall of Sebastopol are causing popular demonstrations of joy in many lands. Among these, not the least interesting, from historical as well as political associations, was the fête of the students of the ancient university of Upsala. The manner in which this was celebrated shows that the old national spirit of the land of Gustavus Adolphus and Charles the Twelfth is not yet extinct. Beside the monument of Gustavus Adolphus, the students, joined by the people, sung a patriotic song written by Böttiger in 1832 for the bicentenary festival of the hero of the Thirty Years' War. Runeberg's Finnish patriotic song, and the Swedish national hymn, were also sung, after an address had been delivered by the curator of the university. In another part of Europe, the much contested and deeply injured Danubian Principalities, the popular rejoicings were equally spontaneous and energetic. A correspondent of the 'Daily News,' who happened to be at Bucharest, describes the demonstrations made at Bucharest, in spite of the presence of the Austrian army of occupation, who, though nominally allies of the Western Powers, have not yet manifested much sympathy with their cause. The Hungarian and the Wallachian people feel warmly towards the English and French in the present war, and old traditions of patriotism have been awakened in Roumania, as those of Sweden have been in the north of Europe. With much interest will be received the report of the impression made in Asia by the news of the fall of Sebastopol, the prestige of the military power of Russia having long been growing in the East. Some of the remarks of Adam Smith on standing armies, in 'The Wealth of Nations,' have been strikingly verified by recent events in the Crimea. The following sentences might have been written as comments on the conduct of the British troops before Sebastopol. "The soldiers of a standing army, though they may never have seen an enemy, yet have frequently appeared to possess all the courage of veteran troops, and the very moment that they took the field to have been fit to face the hardest and most experienced veterans. In 1756, when the Russian army marched into Poland, the valour of the Russian soldiers did not appear inferior to that of the Prussians, at that time supposed to be the hardest and most experienced veterans in Europe. The Russian empire, however, had enjoyed a profound peace for near twenty years before, and could at that time have very few soldiers who had ever seen an enemy. When the Spanish war broke out in 1739, England had enjoyed a profound peace for about eight-and-twenty years. The valour of her soldiers, however, far from being corrupted by that long peace, was never more distinguished than in the attempt upon Carthage, the first unfortunate exploit of that unfortunate war. In a long peace the generals, perhaps, may sometimes forget their skill; but when a well-regulated standing army has been kept up, the soldiers seem never to forget their valour."

The letter addressed by Sir John Shelley, the member for Westminster, to the Chief Commissioner of Works, for information relative to the projected road across the enclosure of St. James's Park, has elicited a reply so far satisfactory as to state that nothing will be done without the sanction of Parliament. It is intended to submit the scheme in detail to the consideration of the House of Commons, where it can either be modified or altogether rejected.

We learn that in addition to the bequest of 200*l.*, by the late Mr. Lawson of Bath, to the Royal Society, legacies of similar amount have been left, also free of duty, to the Astronomical and Meteorological Societies, and 50*l.* to the Natural History Society of Montrose.

Mrs. Ribey, known formerly as "Margaret Catchpole," and the subject of the popular work by the Rev. R. Cobbold, died at her residence in Newtown, Sydney, on the 30th May last.

Mr. J. J. Sylvester, F.R.S., has accepted the appointment of Woolwich Professor of Mathematics, the chair formerly held by Dr. Olynthus Gregory.

The weather having cleared up towards the close of the Association meeting at Glasgow, the excursion to the Island of Arran proved a most agreeable trip, reminding one of the merry and instructive voyage round the Isle of Wight, when the philosophers met at Southampton, and poor Dr. Buckland was the life and soul of the party. On the present occasion, Sir Roderick Murchison officiated as chief of the clan, and a more efficient and genial leader it would have been impossible to select. Many a time has he piloted the members of the Association over hill and dale, and filled their listening ears, in his own hearty and impressive language, with accounts of the geological features of the scenery,—and it was the same now. The members had a magnificent steamer, well-provisioned, liberally placed at their disposal, and they mustered about five hundred in number. Professors Phillips and Ramsay shared with Sir Roderick the honour of describing the geology of the coast as the vessel went along, and the company was also addressed by Mr. Bryce, author of 'Notes on the Geology of Glasgow and the neighbouring Districts.' On reaching Lamlash Bay little exploring parties were formed, and some of the members went to lunch with the Duke of Hamilton at Brodick Castle. Mirth and good-humour everywhere prevailed, and some flashes of wit. Whilst landing at Brodick in boats, a clergyman was hesitating for a moment whether he would not make one too many. "Come along," said a brother pastor, with the readiness of a Sydney Smith, "the boat will carry you yet if you've none of your sermons in your pocket."

At the meeting of the Court of Common Council last week, a melancholy report was given of the fate of the Gerard's Hall crypt, for the preservation of which so many efforts have been made. It will be remembered how much this ancient structure was admired when visited by the congress of the British Archaeological Society in the City. After much negotiation on the part of those who were anxious to preserve this fine monument, it was arranged that it should be removed, and reconstructed in the grounds of the Crystal Palace at Sydenham. Let the result be known in the words of Mr. Deputy Lott, who, in a letter to 'The Times,' as previously at the meeting of the Court, vehemently expresses his feelings of contempt and almost disgust, at learning that this beautiful memorial of a past age had been allowed to be sacrificed by ignorant contractors and workmen—a neglect hardly to be expected from a body of men directing such an institution as the Crystal Palace. "The ancient crypt," says Mr. Lott, "beneath Gerard's Hall, in Basing-lane, was the admiration of all antiquaries; the beautiful paintings of it by Le Keux, Davidson, and others, are now all that can testify to its excellence as a work of art of the olden time. When the new street was formed, it was found impossible to preserve it in its then position, as the crowns of the arches were above the new level of the street. I wished the corporation to re-erect it beneath Guildhall, on a level with the beautiful crypt now existing there, but the city authorities demurred on account of the expense. I then thought it would be a desirable addition to the collection at the Crystal Palace, and, if reconstructed in their grounds, might perhaps be devoted to the purpose of a museum of antiquities (of which there are many) dug up in London. I wrote to the authorities on the subject, and they received the proposition gladly; the City Improvement Committee kindly acceded to my request; the stones were numbered (as Mr. T. H. Hall truly states), and the whole handed over to the Crystal Palace authorities. Having on my various visits to this building looked in vain for this ancient treasure, I wrote to the authorities on the subject; receiving no reply, I got the chairman of the City Committee to write to the Board of Directors on the subject, and a reply, which was denied to courtesy, was conceded to authority. After many apologies, it proceeded to state that

'the materials of the building in question are now in such a condition that its re-erection will be impossible.' 'It is now discovered that, through some mistake on the part of one of the company's contractors, a portion of the stones was taken possession of by the workmen, and used in the foundation of an engine-house, which was erected close to the spot on which they were stacked.'

In the 'Illustrated London News' of Sept. 21, a notice is given of the chief labours of Benedetto Pistrucci, whose death we recorded last week. "It was Pistrucci who made (with the exception of the shillings and sixpences) all the coins of King George the Third, since the Peace of 1815, and the six principal coins of King George the Fourth. He was the great man at the Mint between Pingo and Wyon, and certainly a master in his art. The collection of English medals has few finer things to show than the coronation medal of George IV., which the then master of the Mint very properly entrusted to Benedetto. There was a great outcry at the time at the selection of a foreigner; but we doubt very much if there was any one then in England at all equal to Pistrucci in the mysterious art of die-sinking. The result at least, justified the choice. Die-sinkers for the coin in England have lived in a state of warfare with one another. The great Simon, in the reign of King Charles, was at strife with the Dutch brothers, the celebrated Roetiers; his famous Petition Crown (perhaps the finest coin in the world) originating in his controversy at the Mint. The Roetiers afterwards quarrelled with Rawlins, Rawlins succeeded to more than one feud; Croker, an Irishman employed at the Mint in the reign of Queen Anne, had his disturbances; his successors were not without theirs; and, in our own time, the quarrel between the late Mr. Wyon and now the late Mr. Pistrucci, was in the realm of Art a matter of public and unhappy notoriety. The man who made the Coronation Medal of George IV., and all the fine dragon sovereigns of that monarch, was, we believe, first brought into notice at the Mint when Mr. Pole was master. Pole thought more than favourably of his abilities, and Pistrucci was at once employed on a medal (the medal) designed to commemorate, what was then a recent event—the Battle of Waterloo. . . . The old king died, still nothing certain was heard about it. George IV. died, and collectors were still impatient. William IV. died, and Mr. Hamilton assured us that it was in hand—would be a glorious work, and one well worth waiting for. Then came the Mint Commission of 1848, and it was not forthcoming. The great Captain whose victory it was designed to commemorate died, and yet no medal; and now, forty years after the event, Pistrucci himself dies, and the medal is unpublished and unknown to the Master of the Mint. If the commemoration of Waterloo had depended on Mr. Pistrucci's medal, it had been forgotten as much as Bosworth-field or Bunker's-hill. On Sunday last this eminent engraver ceased to exist. He died at Englefield-green, in the seventy-third year of his age—a duration of life to which, in conversation among his friends, he had no idea of reaching. The fumes of the refinery at the Mint had shortened his days, so he was wont to allege, within the scriptural three-score and ten. From the sulphuric acid of that plague-spot he had been subject (and from no other cause) to very severe headaches, and to a continuous difficulty in breathing. Sulphuric acid tainted his tongue in the morning and at night; yet he lived, we see, into his seventy-third year, and has left a name to be honourably remembered in the art he practised with a skill very rare indeed among modern die-sinkers. We sincerely trust that he has left the Waterloo Medal in a finished state, and if so, that his friends will add to his well-earned reputation by giving it to the world at once.

During the present week several benefit-nights have been given at Drury Lane to those members of the English Operatic Company who have chiefly sustained the labours and honours of the brief and successful season. Among these none have been more distinguished than Mr. Elliot Galer, who has

gained for himself a good reputation as a skilful singer and an intelligent actor, and taken a high position in the English lyric drama. On Thursday night, the benefit of Lucy Escott, *Lucia di Lammermoor* was given, followed by a concert and miscellaneous performances. The experiment has now been fairly tried of giving good musical entertainments on a large scale at low prices, and the success of the undertaking has, we trust, been such as to encourage the managers to make use of the theatre for the same purpose on future occasions. We cordially concur with our facetious contemporary in the warm praises bestowed on the company in his true as well as amusing account of 'a night with the natives' at Drury Lane.

On Monday a dramatic season is to commence at Drury Lane, with Mr. Charles Mathews as acting manager, and Mr. R. Roxby as stage manager; Mr. E. T. Smith being the lessee. Miss Glyn and Mr. Barry Sullivan are the only names announced in support of grand tragedy; but a formidable list of scene-painters, and other non-performing artists, beginning with Mr. Beverly and ending with 'Dykwykin,' forebodes a predominance of spectacle over legitimate drama. The spirited lessee, in a flourishing advertisement, which most of our readers must have already perused, announces the long-promised Egyptian drama by Mr. Fitzball, which is to eclipse in splendour and accuracy of detail all former scenic displays. The authorities of all ages, from Herodotus to the aforesaid Dykwykin, have been consulted for the historical illustrations, and antiquaries and critics are challenged to judge of the merits and correctness of the most minute details. We have no doubt that every effort has been made by the managers to combine instruction with amusement in this historical piece, and trust that its success will repay the time and resources expended in its production. Some new comedies, expressly written for Mr. C. Mathews, are also promised, so that there is every prospect of a good dramatic season. Mr. Tully is the musical director, and the other departments are in efficient hands.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION.—September 13th.—'On the Transmission of Time Signals,' by Professor Piazzi Smyth.—Time-balls for notifying the true time daily have been established in connexion with the astronomical observations at Greenwich, Portsmouth, the Cape of Good Hope, St. Helena, and Madras, while Liverpool showed its high sense of the measure by building and endowing an astronomical observatory in order to have full means of accurately and certainly working the time-ball. More recently one of these machines has been erected in connexion with the Royal Observatory of Edinburgh, and as it has some special features having a direct bearing on the important question of the extension of time signals, I may, perhaps, be permitted to give a short description of it. The Edinburgh time-ball, then, is a black sphere five feet in diameter, traversing up and down a central pole fifteen feet high. This pole having cross-bars at the top, into apparent contact with which the ball can be raised, the beginning of its fall, as indicated by the appearance of a line of light between the cross bars and the ball, is an observation capable of much precision if the ball experiences no retardation in its descent. To ensure this circumstance under all weathers, the ball is made extremely heavy—near a ton,—and the mechanism, by means of which it was hoisted up, is thrown out of gear when the ball is at the top of the mass, so that it has all the velocity of descent that a falling body is capable of. A ton weight, however, once set falling, and accumulating velocity at every instant, would be a very dangerous machine to erect on the top of a building, but for the contrivance due to Mr. Field of London, of checking the descent by the resistance of a column of air. This plan, applied not immediately to the ball, but to a rod projecting from it below, and armed there with a piston which enters a cast-iron cylinder and compresses the air therein, answers

so perfectly that the motion of the mass, which was terrific at first starting, is checked so gently, but yet so completely, that the ball takes its rest at last on its bed block as lightly and silently as if it were a pillow of feathers. The apparatus is capable then of giving signals that may be observed with precision; but how is the accuracy of those signals secured? Instead of being mounted on the Observatory itself, wherein are the astronomical instruments with which the observations of stars are made, by which the true time alone can be ascertained, the ball is erected several hundred feet off, on the top of the lofty Nelson Monument, as a more conspicuous situation for the country around. Now, if an accuracy of a second or two were sufficient, nothing more easy than to send a person from the Observatory with a chronometer, to go up to the top of the monument, and having raised the ball, to drop it at an appointed time by pulling some trigger. But we require here an accuracy of a tenth of a second, and a certainty about it which no portable time-piece could give. A few years ago this might have been a puzzle, but now, through electric extension, it is easy. From a galvanic battery, therefore, in the Observatory, a wire is carried up to the top of the monument, encircles there many times a bar of soft iron, returns to the Observatory, and is placed almost in contact with a wire brought from the other end of the battery to the side of the transit clock itself. There, at the predetermined moment, the astronomer, touching the wires, completes the metallic contact, and the electric influence, instantaneously coursing along the wires up to the monument, converts the soft iron bar into a magnet, which instantaneously pulls the trigger. The electro-magnet pulls the trigger, or pulls at the trigger, for as yet, though electricity acts, it does not act with sufficient force. For like a horse which, at the top of its speed, can carry no burden, so electricity runs itself so out of breath that it can do no hard work. Now, from the immense weight of the ball, the detents require a weight of 12lb to press on the trigger, and move it through a space of one inch, before the mass begins to fall. But if this 12lb, or 1-200 of the ball, will drop that, then similar detents and trigger being furnished to a 12lb weight, a few grains falling on this second trigger will pull it, release the 12lb weight, which, in its fall, strikes the trigger of the great ball, and releases that. Now, to pull with the force of a few grains, and through only the tenth of an inch, the electro-magnets are perfectly capable; and applied to this secondary trigger, the electro-drop is perfectly successful. Still, however, there is one thing wanting which never should be wanting in the proceedings of a public establishment; it is a want of certainty surpassing that of any mere man, and of a complete method of proving the accuracy of the signals, than by reference to the believed capability and skill of the person employed. Thus the person who completes the electric contact at the clock, may be quite capable, under favourable circumstances, of giving the necessary touch with his finger to the tenth of a second, but circumstances at the moment may not be favourable. He may be suddenly disturbed by some extraneous circumstances, or be over-nervous; or, in anxiety about the tenths, he may mistake a whole second, or even a whole minute, and, after the affair is over, there is no record left behind to show whether the signal was made at the right or wrong time. This difficulty, which was equally felt at the Greenwich Observatory, was corrected there, as has now been done at Edinburgh, by having the circuit completed, not by a human finger, but by the second hand of a mean-time clock, which has immediately before been adjusted to show the true time, and has had the comparison between it and the transit clock to this end duly recorded in an observatory ledger previous to the ball being raised. With this certified clock drop, and with improvements that have been made in the galvanic batteries, nothing can be more certain and satisfactory than the performance of the Edinburgh time ball has been for the last year and a half. And, in spite of the weight of the ball, and its distance

from the observatory, the time is notified by it as accurately as it can be taken from the transit clock itself. Several scientific friends in Edinburgh have perseveringly observed the daily fall of our time ball; first, to test its accuracy, and then, being fully assured of that, to test the rates of their clocks and watches employed in other philosophic observations. Amongst these gentlemen, perhaps Sir Thomas Macdougall Brisbane was the most earnest; for, in the great amount of voyaging which he has had in his professional visitation of our colonies, he has been in such imminent peril from errors of longitude, or has been the means of saving others from such, by the battery of astronomical instruments which he took to sea with him after his first experiences, that it has long been one of the dearest wishes of his heart to see accurate time-balls erected in view of the shipping of Greenock and Glasgow; and could the signals which he had witnessed in Edinburgh be repeated as electric communication is able to do in those two western cities, Sir Thomas's high sense of accuracy of the true time in all cases, he says, would be completely satisfied; and a large per centage of the vessels now lost from errors of longitude might assuredly be saved. Nothing can be easier than the principle of the time-ball extension, for one and the same electric contact in the Edinburgh Observatory will drop any number of time-balls elsewhere as long as they are in metallic connexion with it, and furnished with similar triggers, local means of raising them before the appointed instant being provided. Practically there is some doubt or difficulty when the distance becomes great, on account chiefly of the powerful batteries required; but Greenwich experiences seem to show that no trouble need be expected between Edinburgh and Glasgow. To ascertain this point, however, decidedly, a large model time-ball, belonging to, and kindly lent by, the Royal Scottish Society of Arts, has been brought to Glasgow, and the Electric Telegraph Company, entering enthusiastically into the question, have lent the use of one of their wires, and the services of several of their employees, to connect this model time ball in Glasgow with the signal clock of the Edinburgh Observatory, so that the usual signal at 1 P.M. may be seen in the room of Section G as well as on the Calton Hill each day during the meeting of the Association. A rather serious obstacle to be encountered at first was the expense of laying down temporary wires between the Company's office and the College; but the moment that Sir T. Brisbane heard of this, he most handsomely volunteered to be at the expense of it himself; and, accordingly, at his expense this necessary step in an important public improvement has been made, and the result will be immediately patent to all. That Glasgow should have a permanent time ball as well as Edinburgh, no one can doubt; nay, much rather, by reason of the more oceanic character of its shipping. And Glasgow, with its own Observatory and excellent astronomer, might have an original time ball. But there would be no advantage herein in accuracy, and it would be a positive waste of high human attainments to take them away from special pursuits in science and employ them in obtaining independently from nature certain data, which a few shillings' worth of metal and acid will transmit from another observatory. The time ball is a *fait accompli* at Edinburgh, and the employment of its electric signals to drop balls elsewhere is an economising of human labour in accordance with all the spirit of mechanical progress. It is a division of labour with which I am happy to say Professor Nichol entirely agrees. In accordance with the preceding particulars, a large model time ball, kindly lent by the Royal Scottish Society of Arts, was erected in the meeting room of Section G, and placed in electric connexion with the Edinburgh Observatory. At 5 minutes before one o'clock the first preliminary signal was received, and the ball raised, by hand, half mast high. At 2 minutes before, on the second preliminary signal being received, the ball was raised full mast high. And at one o'clock exactly, the ball was dropped by electric influence from Edinburgh, which



dropped the ball on the Nelson Monument there at the same instant. In the experiment performed before the Section, the trigger of the ball was pulled by the force of a local battery in the room; the local battery being brought into play by the Edinburgh signal completing the circuit of the local battery and deflecting a very sensitive needle; consequently, however great the distance of any part from Edinburgh, as long as one of these delicate needles can be acted on, a time ball might be dropped also. Now, such needles are already directly actuated from Edinburgh, in Dundee, Aberdeen, and Greenock, as well as in Glasgow, and they might all, therefore, partake of the advantage of the astronomical observations made in the Royal Observatory of Edinburgh, by receiving the result in the shape of daily signals of the true time, accurate to the tenth part of a second. After the conclusion of the preceding paper, Professor Nichol, of the Glasgow Observatory, addressed the meeting as follows:—I am sure we must all concur in cordially thanking Professor Smyth for his most lucid and admirable exposition, illustrated, as it has been, by the experiment so carefully prepared and successfully conducted; and I cannot allow myself to imagine that the shipowners and public bodies of this city will hesitate as to the duty of realising a benefit of first importance now so entirely within their reach. The condition of Glasgow, with regard to time, is simply as follows:—For several years I have been in the practice of sending the time from the Observatory to the clock in the Exchange by means of portable chronometers. These chronometers are carefully compared with the accurate transit-clock of the Observatory, and very carefully conveyed; so that the Exchange clock must always have indicated very nearly true Greenwich time, and it is now, I believe, used as the authority by all regulators of ship chronometers. But to attain anything like the accuracy of the tenth of a second is, by such a process, simply impossible, nor can that be accomplished by any other mode than the one which my friend Mr. Smyth has just explained—the transmission of an emphatic signal by electricity. As to the dropping of the ball, there cannot be a doubt that it is in every way expedient that this be done by the same impulse which drops it at Edinburgh. Had it been at all necessary, we should have been too glad to take charge of it at the Observatory here; but plain considerations of saving of expense and trouble, and the utmost simplicity, evidently render it altogether advisable that we take advantage of Mr. Smyth's very welcome offer. I would venture, therefore, to urge, with all my influence, on our public bodies that they secure, without delay, for what is now one of the largest—perhaps the second shipping port in this country—what is so entirely within our reach. You will permit me to add, before I sit down, a remark on a subject which we must all hold to be of the highest importance. I am earnest to have it generally understood, and I am extremely glad to be able thus publicly to make the statement, that even the realisation of the proposed new mode, viz., the establishment of an accurate, an unshakeable, and daily time-signal, will not of itself avert the disasters incident to those very common mistakes as to longitude at sea, and that nothing whatever will do so, until we have an entirely different practice as to the rating of chronometers. The mode of rating these instruments now in use rests absolutely on the supposition that their compensation is correct—a supposition than which nothing can be more groundless. There are three classes of chronometers. One class, constituting but a small portion of the whole, may be accounted as perfect in compensation, and these can be rated easily enough, and without prolonged examination, only no man can tell, unless after his instrument has been thoroughly examined, or has undergone a long trial, whether it belongs to this class or not. A second class, perhaps as numerous, consists of chronometers utterly worthless, with regard to any one of which the best thing a captain can do is to send it as quickly as possible to the bottom of the sea. The third, and by far the most

numerous class, consists of instruments of good general structure, but not well compensated—instruments whose rate varies with the temperature, according to a certain regular law of variation. Now, to rate these instruments, simply means to discover the law I speak of—the law of variation; and it is altogether impossible to do anything of the kind by those usual practices that are now called rating. Were the law of variation found, a ship captain might trust his chronometer as implicitly as if it had been thoroughly compensated, for he could apply corrections to its errors, and so prevent its misleading him; but I assure all shipowners that this law cannot be found by merely depositing the instruments with a watchmaker or an Observatory for a few days previous to the ship's sailing. I am glad, I repeat, that I have had the opportunity to make these remarks. The remedy is within reach, as I can authoritatively state to all the shipping interests on the Clyde; but, until that remedy is taken advantage of, there will be no end of hazards, which might be avoided, to the men and the property sent down to the sea in ships. Mr. Rankine, president of the Section, begged to request that the paper of Professor Smyth, and the remarks of Professor Nichol, might be authentically made public.

ASTRONOMICAL.—June 8th.—M. J. Johnson, Esq., President, in the chair. Lieut. Tennant, Bengal Engineers, India; Rev. S. Newth, New College, London; and Captain W. Noble, R.A., Woolwich, were elected Fellows of the Society. 'Suggestions respecting the origin of the Rotatory Movements of the Celestial Bodies, and the Spiral Forms of the Nebulae, as seen in Lord Rosse's Telescopes,' by James Nasmyth, Esq. What first set me thinking on this subject was the endeavour to get at the reason why water in a basin acquires a rotatory motion when a portion of it is allowed to escape through a hole in the bottom. Every well-trained philosophical judgment is accustomed to observe illustrations of the most sublime phenomena of creation in the most minute and familiar operations of the Creator's laws, one of the most characteristic features of which consists in the absolute and wonderful integrity maintained in their action, whatsoever be the range as to magnitude or distance of the objects on which they operate. For instance, the minute particles of dew which whiten the grass-blade in early morn are, in all probability, moulded into spheres by the identical law which gives to the mighty sun its globular form! Let us pass from the rotation of water in a basin to the consideration of the particles of a nebulous mass just summoned into existence by the fiat of the Creator,—the law of gravitation coexisting. The first moment of the existence of such a nebulous mass would be inaugurated by the election of a centre of gravity, and, instantly after, every particle throughout the entire mass of such nebulae would tend to and converge towards that centre of gravity. Now let us consider what would be the result of this. It appears to me that the inevitable consequence of the convergence of the particles towards the centre of gravity of such a nebulous mass would not only result in the formation of a nucleus, but by reason of the physical impossibility that all the converging particles should arrive at the focus of convergence in directions perfectly radial and diametrically opposite to each other, however slight the degree of deviation from the absolute diametrically opposite direction in which the converging particles coalesce at the focus of attraction, a twisting action would result, and rotation ensue, which, once engendered, be its intensity ever so slight, from that instant forward the nucleus would continue to revolve, and all the particles which its attraction would cause to coalesce with it, would do so in directions tangential to its surface, and not diametrically towards its centre. In due course of time the entire of the remaining nebulous mass would become affected with rotation from the more rapidly moving centre, and would assume what appears to me to be their inherent normal condition, namely, spirality, as the prevailing character of

their structure; and as that is *actually* the aspect which may be said to characterise the majority of those marvellous nebulae, as revealed to us by Lord Rosse's magnificent telescope, I am strongly impressed with the conviction that such reasons as I have assigned have been the cause of their spiral aspect and arrangement. And by following up the same train of reasoning, it appears to me that we may catch a glimpse of the primeval cause of the rotation of every body throughout the regions of space, whether they be nebulae, stars, double stars, or planetary systems. The primary cause of rotation which I have endeavoured to describe in the preceding remarks is essentially cosimal, and is the direct and immediate offspring of the action of gravitation on matter in a diffused, nebulous, and, as such, highly mobile condition. It will be obvious that in the case of a nebulous mass, whose matter is unequally distributed, that in such a case several subcentres of gravity would be elected, that is to say, each patch of nebulous matter would have its own centre of gravity; but these in their turn subordinate to that of the common centre of gravity of the whole system, about which all such outlying parts would revolve. Each of the portions above alluded to would either be attracted by the superior mass, and pass in towards it as a *wisp* of nebulous matter, or else establish perfect individual and distinct rotation within itself, and finally revolve about the great common centre of gravity of the whole. Bearing this in mind, and referring to some of the figures of the marvellous spiral nebulae which Lord Rosse's telescope has revealed to us, I shall now bring these suggestions to a conclusion. I have avoided expanding them to the extent I feel the subject to be worthy and capable of; but I trust such as I have offered will be sufficient to convey a pretty clear idea of my views on this sublime subject, which I trust may receive the careful consideration its nature entitles it to. Let any one carefully reflect on the reason why water assumes a rotatory motion when a portion of it is permitted to escape from an aperture in the bottom of the circular vessel containing it; if they will do so in the right spirit, I am fain to think they will arrive at the same conclusion as the contemplation of this familiar phenomenon has brought me to.

There were exhibited at the meeting of the Society two beautiful engravings,—one representing two views of *Mars*, and the other a view of *Saturn*,—executed from drawings by Captain Jacob, founded upon his own observations of those planets at Madras with the Lerebours equatoreal. One of the views of *Mars* represents the aspect of the planet on the 18th of March, 1854, at 9<sup>h</sup> 30<sup>m</sup> Madras mean time; the other represents its appearance on the 23d of March, 1854, at 6<sup>h</sup> 54<sup>m</sup>. The drawing of *Saturn* refers to the appearance of the planet on the 15th of November, 1852. The transparency of the obscure ring, which was first remarked by Captain Jacob and Mr. Lassell, independently of each other, is very clearly exhibited in this drawing. The drawings of both planets have been engraved at the expense of the Court of Directors of the East India Company, who have liberally distributed copies of them to the Fellows of the Society, and other persons interested in the subject of such delineations. A few copies still remain for distribution, which may be obtained by applying at the apartments of the Society.

#### FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Erfurt, September, 1855.

THIS is one of the places in Germany least visited by strangers, and yet, I should say, one of the most interesting, especially to Englishmen. It was originally the capital of Thuringia, and the scene of many of the labours of Winifred, a countryman of our own, better known to the world under the name of Saint Boniface. To his indefatigable zeal Germany may be said to owe the foundation of her moral and intellectual cultivation; he established religious institutions, erected churches, built cloisters, and carried on a steady and unflinching battle, both against the Frankish priests, who, nominally Christian, were steeped in

vices and dissipation, and the barbarous people who were sunk in ignorance and idolatry. The cathedral which he caused to be erected in A.D. 741, is one of the most curious and beautiful churches in this part of Germany. It stands at one extremity of a noble square, on an eminence between forty and fifty feet high, and with the church of St. Severus, built close beside it, has a very imposing effect. A magnificent flight of broad steps conducts to a very curious antique double door, which at present forms the principal entrance to the church. This antique portal is a sort of triangular building in the Gothic style of architecture, and unique of its kind. One side of the triangle parallel with the church is the internal entrance, whilst the other two sides are occupied by the external doorways. The arches of these gates, which are exquisitely ornamented with grotesque designs, are pointed, and rise to a great height. The two outer entrances meet in an arched vault, which communicates with the third doorway. In the cathedral itself are to be found many fine monuments, interesting both to the artist and the historian. One of Lucas Cranach's finest paintings adorns the walls; this, and two pictures by Beck, a native of Erfurt, are, perhaps, the only paintings of decided value. A Gothic baptismal font, tapering to the roof of the cathedral, and an ancient candelabra, are both beautiful in execution and curious as works of art. The stained glass windows are very old and fine. Erfurt is full of old churches of great beauty, but I cannot give myself time to speak of them, and have only mentioned the cathedral so particularly because I think it ought to receive more attention from tourists than it does.

From Weimar I learn that Professor Rietschel, the Dresden sculptor, has been there on a visit, and promises the completion of his model for the Goethe and Schiller monument early next summer; Herr Müller of Munich will require a year from that time to finish the casting of the two statues, and the present idea is to have the group erected in celebration of Schiller's hundredth birthday. King Louis of Bavaria promised to give the bronze for this work, on condition that it should be erected in 1856; but it is hoped that he will not withdraw his princely offer, when it is remembered that the delay in the execution of the work was mainly caused by the long and protracted illness of the sculptor, which obliged him to spend the greater part of a year in Italy and Sicily to recruit his health. The cost of the model (from 7000 to 8000 Prussian dollars) is undertaken by the Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar, whose capital the monument will adorn; the Emperors of Austria and France have promised 300 ducats each, and the King of Prussia has signified his wish to aid in the work, and King Louis of Bavaria will give the metal requisite. In taking down a house lately, opposite the Museum in Munich, a series of paintings from scripture history were discovered behind the paper occupying the whole of the wall. They serve to strengthen the opinion of the archaeologists of Munich, that these walls formerly belonged to the chapel of an hospital which was close to the house. The pictures belong evidently to the latter end of the fifteenth century, and are amongst the best specimens we have preserved of this rich period of the old German masters. The expression of the female faces, particularly that of the Madonna, is full of dignity and beauty. *The Samaritan Woman talking to our Saviour at the Well* is extremely graceful and modest. The larger pictures under the frieze have suffered much from the ravages of damp and time, but some isolated heads stand out in excellent preservation. The Academy of Art has been commissioned by the ministry to endeavour to preserve as much as possible of these works, the value of which is greatly enhanced by the rarity of Bavarian paintings of that period. Accurate photographs are to be at once taken of those works whose removal may be considered doubtful or impossible. Herr Thäter, who made such a beautiful engraving of *Kaulbach's Battle of the Huns* and *Cornelius's Campo Santo*, is about to undertake Herr Von Schmidt's celebrated illustrations of

Aschenbrüdel (*Cinderella*). He will begin as soon as he has completed the copies of *The Seven Works of Mercy* which adorn the Wartburg.

#### VARIETIES.

*Mr. C. Hall.*—The newspapers recently announced the death of Mr. Chambers Hall, a gentleman well known as one of the most intelligent collectors of objects *recherché* in Art. With a taste that was catholic, Mr. Hall sought every opportunity of enriching his portfolios or garnishing his walls with the choicest works; yet, while he disdained not Art in her lower tendencies, he had the greatest predilection for those schools in which beauty of form or nobleness of aim prevails. Ranging from Raphael to Ostade, his taste displayed itself in the acquisition of some of the finest drawings of the several schools,—many that were preparations for some of their most celebrated pictures. The void created by the demise of such a gentleman is not readily supplied,—for he was one of the few who possessed the knowledge, the fine taste, or the public spirit to collect works of the severer Italian schools,—and though, as has been observed, he was rich in works of the Dutch masters, he was one of the few Englishmen with a passion for, as he made the acknowledgment of his sense of, the superiority of the *spiritual* over the *material*. For him the selected forms of the Greek bronze, the Etruscan vase, or the Virgin Mother of the Italian, had more charms than the materialism of the Dutch Vrow, the vulgarities of boorish manners, or the literal truths of still-life,—and when he sought these, it was in consequence of some victory achieved by the artist over the low or unpromising nature of the subject in the exhibition of some special mastery of technical management. Not restricted to subjects of history, Mr. Hall's taste led him to the acquisition of some remarkably fine examples of portraiture and landscape, recorded by the varied means of colour, the pencil, or the etching-needle. With a public spirit worthy of imitation, Mr. Hall sought not these for selfish or mere personal ends, as his patriotism and public spirit evidence by the munificent act which he performed a few short months previous to his death—having divided his collection between the Museums of London and Oxford. In thus making these valuable additions to the before-named depositories his example is no less instructive, for he had the gratification of living (though but a short time, it must be confessed) to enjoy the satisfaction to be derived from so liberal a deed. His donation to the Taylor Museum at Oxford was noticed in the columns of this journal at the time it was made,—it is, therefore, now only necessary to advert to it for the purpose of showing to what an extent Mr. Hall felt—as all thinking persons, well-wishers to the Art-knowledge of their country must feel—the necessity of cultivating at our Universities a taste for the *higher* branches of the Fine Arts. Without such education, it is hopeless to see our public buildings improved, to find members of the senate *au courant* with a Fine-Art question when it arises, and to put an end to the system of jobbing which now like an incubus sits upon the shoulders of Art, whether it be a memorial statue or a public picture. Improvement in our artistic education at the Universities is the first step towards the proper ministerial direction of the minds and tastes of the masses.—*Athenæum*.

*Newspapers.*—The operations of the new Newspaper Act do not appear to be extremely satisfactory; and if report can be believed, the only paper that has profited by it—it is said to the extent of 40,000*l.* per annum—was the most bitter opponent of the new Act. The cheap papers started have nearly all died out, after a sickly span of existence; and the few that still survive will, we fear, not last long. It is evident that the fault must be in want of sympathy in the public; but at the same time speculators have been greatly to blame. Where there was room for one cheap paper, half a dozen have been started to fill the gap; and this has necessarily entailed ruin upon all. After a while things will again find their level, and good cheap

papers need not despair of a moderate amount of success. The following paragraph, which we borrow from an American paper, will serve to show how differently such matters can be reported by our Transatlantic brethren:—"We have in New York city upwards of 120 newspapers, with an aggregate annual circulation of 80,000,000, our population being about 850,000. I have seen a late tabular statement which gives to London only 94 papers, having an annual issue of 53,000,000. Our census returns for 1850 give us 2526 newspapers, with an aggregate issue of 526,409,978. The table before me makes the number for the United Kingdom 616, with a circulation of 90,000,000. The city of Cincinnati, which had not a single inhabitant when 'The Times' started, now has 16 daily papers, and the annual issues of its 30 papers are 9,000,000."—*Publisher's Circular*.

*Belgian Literary News.*—The King of the Belgians has offered a prize of 3000 francs to the author of the best history of the reign of the Archdukes Albert and Isabella. It is proposed that in future the writer for such prizes shall choose his own subject. The Belgian Academy, when re-organized, will devote itself to the production of national biography, the publication of Archaic Flemish works, and the re-editing of the great writers of the country. The late Baron Stassart has left the Belgian Academy 2260 francs a year, to found a prize of a gold medal, worth 600 francs, for the best biography. A second prize of 3000 francs is to be given to the author of the best work on some point of national history. The first biography is to be that of the Baron himself.—*Brussels Herald*.

*American Publications.*—Four elegantly bound volumes of Schoolcraft's 'History of the Indian Tribes,' illustrated by S. Eastman, of the United States Army, and compiled under the direction of the Indian bureau, have been prepared for presentation to the King of the Sandwich Islands, Kamehameha IV., through his minister, the Hon. M. Lee.—*American Publishers' Circular*.

*Trade Sale Catalogues.*—By careful computation it has been ascertained that the entire value of the books named in the Catalogue of the Philadelphia Trade Sale, commencing on the 11th of September, estimated at trade prices, as printed, is over \$370,000; that of the New York Book Publishers' Association Catalogue, for their sale, commencing on the 15th of September, is over \$400,000. *American Publishers' Circular*.

**GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.**—Sunday, October 7th.—An Excursion Train to Bath and Bristol will leave Paddington at 7.45 a.m., and will return the same evening from Bristol at 6.30, and Bath at 7 o'clock. Fares, Bath, 9*s.* and 6*s.*; and Bristol, 10*s.* and 6*s.* No luggage allowed.

**E. CHURTON, BRITISH AND FOREIGN LIBRARY,** begs to inform his Subscribers that he has JOINED his LIBRARY to that of Mr. BOOTH, 307, Regent Street, next the Polytechnic Institution, where Families and Book Societies can be supplied on terms more liberal than at any other library. First-class Country Subscribers of two guineas are entitled to Eight Volumes at one time, including the newest publications. Town subscribers from one guinea upwards.

**MR. TENNANT gives Private Instruction in** Mineralogy and Geology at his residence, No. 149, Strand, London. He can supply Elementary Collections at Two, Five, Ten, Twenty, Fifty, to One Hundred Guineas each, and every requisite to assist those commencing the study of these interesting branches of Science, a knowledge of which affords so much pleasure to the traveller in all parts of the world.

A Collection for Five Guineas, which will illustrate the recent works on Geology, by Lyell, Mantell, and others, contains 250 specimens, in a plain Mahogany Cabinet, with five trays, comprising the following specimens, viz.:

**MINERALS** which are either the components of Rocks, or occasionally imbedded in them:—Quartz, Agate, Chalcedony, Jasper, Garnet, Zeolite, Hornblende, Aurore, Asbestos, Feldspar, Mica, Talc, Tourmaline, Calcareous Spar, Fluor, Selenite, Baryta, Strontia, Salt, Sulphur, Plumbago, Bitumen, &c.

**NATIVE METALS, or METALLIFEROUS MINERALS;** these are found in masses or beds, in veins, and occasionally in the beds of rivers. Specimens of the following Metallic Ores are put in the Cabinet:—Iron, Manganese, Lead, Tin, Zinc, Copper, Antimony, Silver, Gold, Platina, &c.

**ROCKS:**—Granite, Gneiss, Mica-slate, Clay-slate, Porphyry, Serpentine, Sandstones, Limestones, Basalt, Lavas, &c.

**PALEOZOIC FOSSILS** from the Llandovery, Wenlock, Ludlow, Devonian, and Carboniferous Rocks.

**SECONDARY FOSSILS,** from the Lias, Oolite, Wealden, and Cretaceous Groups.

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